Hafa Adai!

Support shown for Alter City Group's major siting permit. » PAGE 2

Manglona dismisses charges vs Tinian Dynasty owner. » PAGE 3

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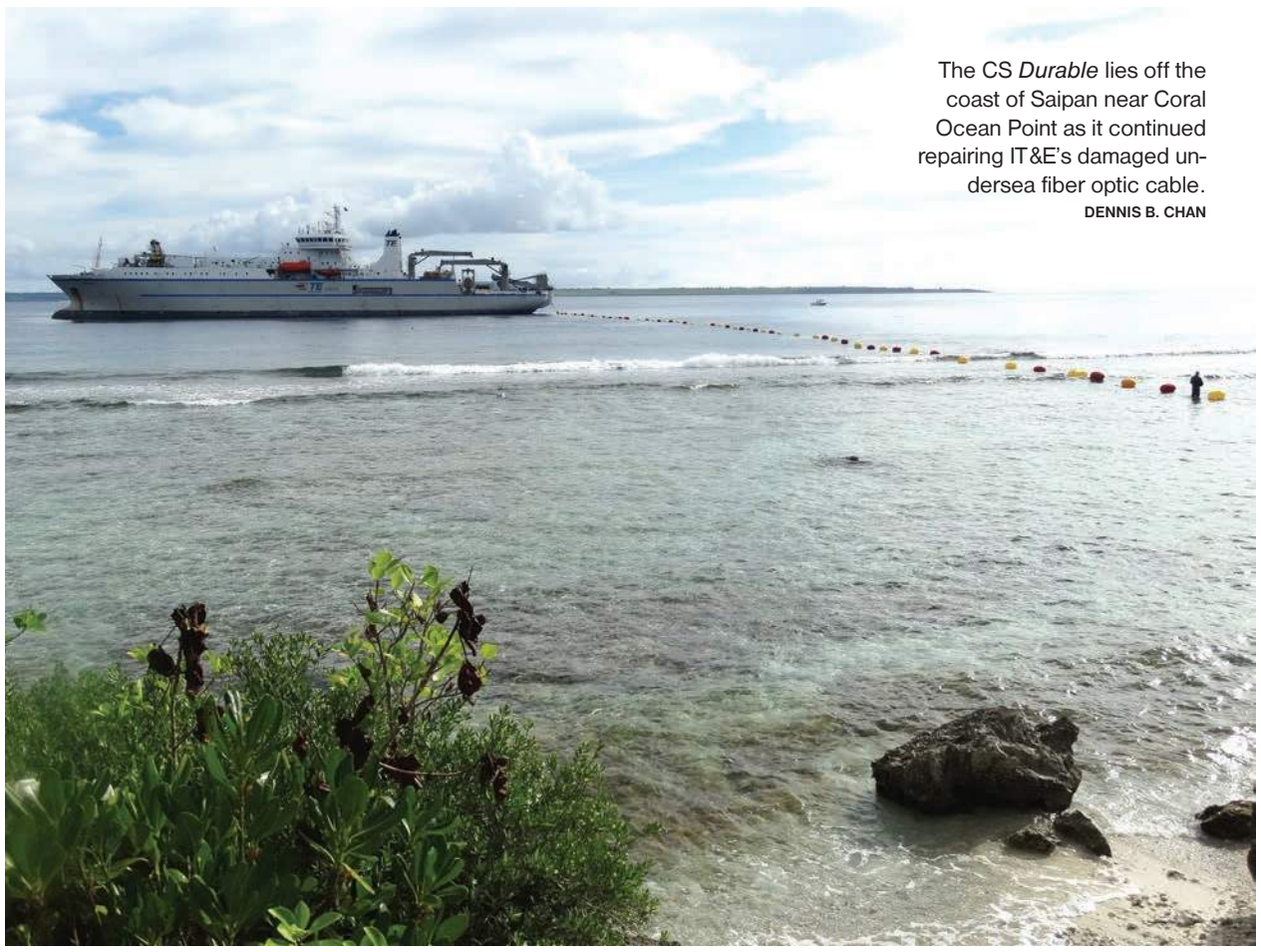
IT&E: Return to normal Internet today



The CS *Durable* lies off the coast of Saipan near Coral Ocean Point as it continued repairing IT&E's damaged undersea fiber optic cable.
DENNIS B. CHAN

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» CS *Durable* repairs damaged cable over weekend

The CS *Durable* progressed through repairs on IT&E's damaged fiber optic line over the weekend, bringing IT&E closer to restoring full Internet service as early as the wee hours of this morning, officials of the telecommunications firm said.

The CS *Durable* is a cable repair ship hired by IT&E. On Friday, IT&E said its crew began repairing the damage to the fiber optic line off the Saipan coast in the mid-afternoon.

Asked for an update on repairs yesterday, IT&E sales and marketing manager Hans Mickelson said that they

See IT&E on Page 4

3-hour drama at Feng Hua

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Man allegedly grabbed 2 machetes from store
» Threatened he would kill his wife, barricaded himself

A man grabbed two machetes from Feng Hua Store in San Jose, allegedly threatened to kill his wife, then barricaded himself on the third floor of the store's building before surrendering to police after three hours on Saturday.

The incident started at 11:07am and ended at 2pm after Alfred Kaipat, also known as Jacob, in his 50s, dropped the machetes, opened the gate to the building, and surrendered to police, a police detective told *Saipan Tribune*.

Police were able to convince Kaipat to surrender after he talked to his mother, the detective said.

Kaipat was taken to the Department of Correction on charges of violation of an order of court protection, disturbing the peace, and theft. The suspect has pending domestic vio-

See DRAMA on Page 4

Regulators give go-signal for Best Sunshine to open Garapan casino

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission gave Best Sunshine International Ltd. the go-signal Friday to open its "live" gaming facility at the T Galleria, allowing the casino to hold a soft opening on Sunday.

During a meeting on Friday, commissioners unanimously voted "yes" to authorize BSI, which holds an exclusive license to operate a casino on Saipan, to open the temporary casino.

Commission executive director Ed-

See REGULATORS on Page 4

JOEL PINAROC
A dealer mans a baccarat table at the temporary casino that Best Sunshine International Ltd. opened to the public on Sunday at the T Galleria.

$4.3M worth of 'ice' seized; 2 men arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Joint federal and local law enforcers arrested on Wednesday two overstaying male Chinese tourists after the seizure of over 10,700 grams of methamphetamine or "ice" worth between $3.2 million and $4.3 million that was concealed in an air-compressor in a container from Guangzhou, China.

Yuliu Liu, 36, and Zhenlin Fang, 24, were taken to federal court on Friday afternoon to face charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

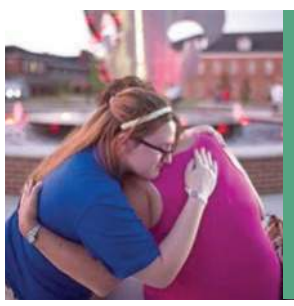
U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the preliminary and detention hearings for July 31 at 8:30am.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Garth Backe said Liu and Fang both entered Saipan as tourists and that they are now out of

See ICE on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Rota held its first Independence Day celebration last week.
» PAGE 13



NATION
John Russell Houser's mental problems didn't prevent him from buying a gun.
» PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE
Chris Brown finally left the Philippines but not without last-minute complications.
» PAGE 19

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Local

Support shown for Alter City Group's major siting permit

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas, standing fifth from left, is joined by Alter City Group chief executive officer Edvon Sze, managing director Ken Lin, executive vice president of construction Ian Leong and their design team, as well as Division of Coastal Resources Management staff after Thursday's public hearing at the Tinian Elementary School.

TINIAN—No opposition was raised and overwhelming support was shown during the public hearing held by the Division of Coastal Resources Management of the CNMI for Alter City Group's proposed $1.2-billion project on the island of Tinian.

The hearing was headed by CRM director Fran Castro for the major siting permit of the Macau-based company last Thursday afternoon at the Tinian Elementary School.

Other board members from regulatory agencies such as Gary Camacho of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Power Division were also present.

Among the attendees was Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas, who also supported the group's project.

"I'm here in support of the Alter City Group. We believe that the proposal is good for Tinian," San Nicolas said. "On behalf of the people of Tinian, I humbly request your approval of their proposal."

Tinian residents also did not oppose the project but raised questions such as additional medical facility for the impending increase in the island's population, hiring of local employees, and preservation of historical and cultural sites.

ACG responded to these questions by stating their plans for a clinic, partnering with the Northern Marianas College for training local employees, and the incorporation in their master plan of a cultural trail as well as a museum.

Others sought help from the board to expedite the permitting process, believing that development on Tinian is "long overdue."

The deadline for the approval of the siting permit is Aug. 8.

Alter City chief executive officer Edvon Sze, managing director Ken Lin, executive vice president of construction Ian Leong and their design team were among those present.

"This is a good way to let the public know how our project is going to have an impact and whether it's good or not for them," Sze said.

"CRM, to us, is just one of the major steps that we're going to achieve and there are a lot ahead of us," he added.

ACG's project will cover 150 hectares and will be named Plumeria Resort and Casino.

To be included in this sprawling facility in Tinian's Puntan Diablo cove are a hotel, villas, corporate villas, service apartments, an 18-hole golf course, casino, water park, cafe, restaurant, shops, and many more.

The project, which will create over 5,000 rooms on Tinian, will be done in three phases and is expected to be completed in 12 years.

ACG showed their architectural plans for their hotel and casino resort project that was inspired by various natural and cultural elements such as the plumeria flower itself, as well as the sea turtle, the taga, and the taga house.

"Alter City Group's project is really the vision to 'alter' the island in the vision of Tinian in a positive way," ACG counsel Robert Torres said.

"What we have strictly ordered to our designers when we ordered them to design is not to touch the coastline as much as we can," Lin said.

Last June, the group filed its application for a casino license. In May, they made a partial payment of $1.2 million to the government for

Inos set to return in early August

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is expected to return from the U.S. mainland by early August.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco did not give the exact date, but said the governor will not extend his stay in Seattle where he is vacationing with family members.

Blanco said all indications seem to point that the governor is in "good spirits" and in good health. Blanco said he is basing his observations on photos in social media showing the CNMI leader with family members and friends.

Blanco added that the governor is being kept updated with what is happening in the CNMI, and that Inos and acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres are in constant communications with each other.

"But there are topics that they talk about that I am not privy to," Blanco said.

Inos took a leave to take a vacation early this month.

The last few weeks have been very challenging for the CNMI.

Aside from typhoons, the Commonwealth about two weeks ago was hit with a massive communications outage that prompted the acting governor to declare a state of emergency, which is still in effect up to now.

Estimates vary, but losses on that particular day that communications lines were down were said to have reached millions of dollars.

The cause of the communications breakdown was reportedly a damaged fiber optic cable owned by service provider IT&E.

Repairs are continuing on the damaged cable, IT&E said. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Beijing International Tourism Expo

Travel fairs are one the biggest annual events for the **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** in its source markets.

The recent **Beijing International Tourism Expo (BITE)** highlights the vast impact of such travel fairs. Held at the **China National Conference Center** over 4 days in June, BITE featured 50 exhibitors, attracted 80,000 fair attendees, and provided the MVA with interviews with six media partners.

The MVA joined the **Brand USA** pavilion with 12 other partners, operating a booth where staffers distributed brochures and met with industry partners, media, and consumers. **Century Tours** also distributed product flyers at the booth. At the pre-opening buyers and sellers meeting session, the MVA also met with trade partners from other cities.

Travel fairs such as BITE provide the opportunity to highlight the abundant tourism resources to visitors, to introduce the MVA's offices in China, and to build and maintain relationships with travel trade partners.

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HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Manglona dismisses charges vs Tinian Dynasty owner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Thursday dismissed the indictment against the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Manglona dismissed without prejudice the criminal charges against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments, Ltd. based on the U.S. government's request. Dismissed without prejudice means the prosecution can re-file the charges in the future.

In a motion to dismiss, Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell Lorfing said the motion is made in good faith, primarily based on the documents filed under seal and further discussions that the parties have had following the filing of those documents.

The new owners of Hong Kong Entertainment and the U.S. government have agreed not to prosecute the criminal case against HKE in exchange for HKE's forfeiture of $3.03 million.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, announced on Thursday that the parties entered into a non-prosecution agreement that requires Tinian Dynasty to forfeit $3,036,969.12—the largest forfeiture ever collected by the U.S. government in the CNMI.

In a separate press release, HKE chair Wai Chan disclosed that pursuant to the non-prosecution deal that the parties signed, HKE has made a payment of $2.5 million to the U.S. government on Thursday.

With the $2.5 million payment, HKE does not need to pay more because the $536,969.12 that federal agents previously seized from Tinian Dynasty is also forfeited to the U.S. government, bringing the total forfeited amount to $3,036,969.12.

Chan said they still have a lot of work to do and that full compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act requires "considerable planning and diligence."

Under the deal, the U.S. government—in its sole discretion—can rescind the agreement and initiate criminal proceedings if the U.S. government determines that Tinian Dynasty has failed to comply with any provision of the agreement.

HKE chair Chan said pursuant to the agreement, HKE acknowledges the acts alleged against it, pledges to cooperate with, and to regularly report to, the U.S. government regarding anti-money laundering and Bank Secrecy Act issues.

IRS Criminal Investigation conducted the investigation.

The U.S. government filed in November last year 158 criminal charges against HKE: one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report or CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program.

Good turnout for 'protected status' presentation for Nepalese community

A presentation on the granting of "temporary protected status" to members of the Nepalese community drew a sizable crowd Friday evening at the American Memorial Park auditorium.

The presentation was conducted by the law firm Mailman and Kara.

Law firm partner Bruce Mailman said the turnout was "good" considering that the Nepalese community on Saipan is quite small.

"We had about 25 adults. It is a small community," he said.

Mailman stressed that the presentation was an outreach program, and he hopes there will be a "ripple" effect for members of this community.

He added that most of the questions on the presentation were related to concerns about those who are out of status.

Other Nepalese citizens who are in status also asked if they can apply for the "temporary protected status," Mailman said.

Mailman said they would advise those who have good status "to think twice before jumping to a new status."

"If you do not have status or not in good status, or you are unhappy with your situation, then maybe you can get a protected status," he said, adding that one can then get an EAD or employment authorization document so that you can "have opportunities thereafter."

Attorney Maya B. Kara said a "temporary protected status" can give members of the Nepalese community some breathing room, particularly those working for embattled Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

She said the "temporary protected status" is being made available for residents of countries that have been affected by ecological disasters, such as Nepal and Haiti.

Kara said what the temporary status does is protect Nepalese citizens from being "removed" from the CNMI.

She said Nepalese citizens can apply for the status starting June. The application period is good for six months, while the temporary protected status is good for 18 months.

Kara said Nepalese citizens should "take advantage of it, particularly those who are out of status." She said on Tinian alone, there more than 100 Nepalese who might be in limbo.

Kara said this is also an opportunity for "undocumented" citizens of Nepal—if there are any—in the CNMI to apply for a status.

Kara said once an application is approved, a Nepalese citizen can then apply for a CW or any other status. "The temporary protected status gives them some breathing room," Kara said. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

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DRAMA

From Page 1

lence cases.

Many people, some climbing atop vans and in nearby buildings, watched the drama after heavily armed members of the Department of Public Safety's Tactical Response Enforcement Team and other patrol and traffic officers positioned themselves in the vicinity of the three-story Feng Hua building on Monsignor Guerrero Road near the corner of Apengagh Avenue.

Some construction workers doing a road project in front of Feng Hua building had to stop their work. Many thought there was a hostage drama as many officers, including TRET, were seen in the vicinity of Feng Hua building.

Officers blocked Monsignor Guerrero Road by cordoning the area with long yellow tapes. Firefighters and medics also came. In total, about 25 to 30 police officers and firefighters responded, a police detective told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Tribune learned from police and a witness that the "drama" began when Kaipat, who lives in the room on the third floor of Feng Hua building, went down to the store on the first floor of the building and grabbed two machetes from the shelf.

The owner of Feng Hua store said that Kaipat just walked out of the store without paying for the two machetes, which measure about two and a half feet and is worth $27 each.

The owner said she asked Kaipat to pay for the machetes but the latter just continued walking outside the store.

In the parking lot of the building, Kaipat allegedly told another man that he is going upstairs to his unit where he would wait and kill his Chinese wife.

Kaipat and his wife have been staying in the Feng Hua apartment for more than two years now.

The wife, who was in their Dandan store at that time, was alerted about Kaipat's threat and called the police.

The type of two machetes that Alfred Kaipat grabbed from the shelf at Feng Hua Store in San Jose before he barricaded himself inside the building on Saturday. After a three-hour drama, Kaipat surrendered to police.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In 10 to 15 minutes, a police officer arrived at the Feng Hua building, then followed by more officers. Police, however, could not get near Kaipat because he had locked the gate leading to the third floor.

Police then talked to Kaipat's mother. Kaipat, who was seen outside his room, later dropped the machetes, opened the gate and surrendered to police.

The owner of Feng Hua said she and her employee could not get out from the store because police prevented them.

She said the couple had just opened a store in Dandan by the end of last year.

She said the building's other tenants were not in when the incident happened, she added.

IT&E

From Page 1

would probably have "good news" in the morning and that weather conditions for repairs were good.

"We are making progress…If everything goes [well] tonight, everybody should see a marked difference in data" services in the morning, Mickelson told *Saipan Tribune*.

PTI chief executive officer Jim Oehlerking announced the start to repairs in a press conference on Friday. PTI is the parent company of IT&E.

Oehlerking told reporters on Friday that they were still looking at a 48-hour timeframe for repairs, before bringing back Internet to "pre-cut" capabilities.

"We are going to begin hopefully on Sunday restoring full capabilities to different services. We don't want to disrupt the services that are currently in place during normal business hours so over a series of days between 12am and 4am [we will be] swinging back traffic," Oehlerking said.

When asked yesterday, Mickelson described the damage as a "cut to the cable" caused by the "many years of being out in the ocean" amid strong weather conditions.

On Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* observed the CS *Durable* off the Saipan coast near the Coral Ocean Point Resort.

A restricted access tape surrounded the work site.

CS *Durable* and IT&E repair crew and were seen working on the beachside. Divers and dive equipment were seen on the shore.

A series of buoys, which appeared to run along the fiber optic line, was set from the shore to the repair ship off the coast.

On Friday, Oehlerking said land crew were preparing for the termination of the cable. "We are running [the line] all the way from past the break point. We are going to do a cut and do a splice and take it all the way into the shore, and bring it into our manhole on the shore."

Mickelson said Friday that the CS *Durable* deployed a remotely operated vehicle in the water to go down and map out an area and route for the new cable.

Oehleking said before the splice was done the repair ship would test the cable and make sure there were "no other problems with it."

According to Mickelson, the ROV was traversing the cable line, but not all the way to Tinian.

Repairs began after IT&E secured all necessary local and federal permits to conduct their work.

Oehlerking said as they went through this process there was an additional requirement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that they did not think would be required but turned out was.

The CS *Durable* arrived last Thursday morning. It is part of TE SubCom's global fleet of cable repair ships. It is a 140-meter long "Reliance Class" vessel, specifically designed and constructed for cable maintenance and construction.

Oehlerking estimated the overall break repairs would cost about $2 million.

ICE

From Page 1

status. Attorneys Mark Hanson and Steven Pixley appeared as court-appointed counsels for the two.

Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force officer Raymond M. Renguul stated in his report that Customs inspectors recovered plastic packages of "ice" weighing approximately 23 lbs or 10,617 grams, while joint local and federal investigators seized 130 grams of "ice" from Liu's residence in Chalan Piao during a follow-up operation.

With a street value of $300 to $400 a gram, the 10,747 grams of "ice" involved were estimated at $3,224,100 to $4,298,800, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Renguul said that, on July 17, 2015, during a routine inspection of a shipping container arriving from Guangzhou, China, a CNMI Customs inspector noticed an air-compressor listed to a "Han Lu" that appeared to have been tampered with.

Using a fiber optic camera to look inside the tank, Customs inspectors saw a package containing a crystal-like substance, Renguul said.

A field test kit was then used to determine the contents and the results returned a presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

A drug detection dog also alerted inspectors to the presence of narcotics. The tank was opened and inspectors recovered a total of five square plastic packages of "ice" weighing approximately 23 lbs or 10,617 grams.

The tank was eventually resealed, and on July 21, the air compressor was transported along with the rest of the cargo to the Sunleader warehouse in As Terlaje Road, Saipan.

At the warehouse, investigators with the DEA, CNMI Customs, U.S. Homeland Security Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Public Safety, and CNMI Attorney General Investigation Unit placed the area under surveillance and waited for the person or persons who would pick up the shipment.

On the same day, investigators saw Fang arrive and meet with a Sunleader employee inside the warehouse. Fang then left the area after a couple of minutes and, afterwards, investigators learned that Fang had asked about the owner of the air compressor and how to use it.

Renguul said their surveillance continued the following day, July 22.

At 2pm on July 22, a Sunleader employee received a phone call from an unknown individual, who asked if the air compressor had arrived, and the employee told the caller to call back later.

A few minutes later, an unknown woman called the Sunleader employee and inquired about the air compressor. The employee told the woman that the air compressor was ready to be picked up.

Shortly, the employee received another call from an unknown woman advising the Sunleader employee that a man will be picking up the air compressor.

At 4:30pm, investigators saw a white Nissan Quest van driving toward the Sunleader warehouse.

Before the van arrived at the warehouse, investigators saw the van momentarily stop. Fang got out from the driver's seat and walked to a grassy area. The passenger, Liu, moved into the driver's seat and proceeded to the warehouse.

Investigators saw Sunleader employees meet with Liu and then load the air compressor, along with two additional boxes, into the rear compartment of the van.

Investigators further saw Liu handing money to a Sunleader employee and Liu receive paperwork in return.

Liu then drove away from the warehouse but stopped at the grassy area right before As Terlaje Road. Investigators saw Liu get down from the vehicle and get into the passenger side. At the same time, Fang entered the driver's side of the van. Moments later, the van made a turn onto As Terlaje Road.

Investigators tracked the van, which immediately began to drive at inconsistent speeds as well as proceed circuitously through numerous residential and business areas.

Renguul said that based on his training and experience, drug traffickers often engage in such driving patterns as a means of detecting whether they are being followed by law enforcement.

When the van reached an area in Upper Navy Hill, investigators observed a piece of paper that had been set on fire being discarded from the driver's side window of the van.

Investigators later examined the remnants of the burnt paper and observed markings consistent with a Sunleader receipt.

To prevent the additional destruction of evidence, investigators executed a vehicle stop, and Fang and Liu were arrested and taken into custody.

Inside the van, a large quantity of clear zip-lock baggies of varying sized was discovered in the front passenger's side glove compartment.

A search of a bag found on Fang revealed a store's receipt for nine bags for zip-lock bags in two different sizes. The receipt date was July 22, 2015, indicating that the purchase had occurred at 3:52pm that day.

With the assistance of a translator, investigators obtained consent from Liu to search Liu's residence in Chalan Piao.

During the search, Renguul said investigators discovered about 130 grams of suspected "ice" packaged in a zip-lock baggie. A field test of the substance yielded a presumptive positive result for methamphetamine.

Investigators also discovered large quantities of clear plastic zip-lock baggies and a digital scale.

With the assistance of a translator, investigators obtained consent from Fang to search his residence on Upper Navy Hill. During the search, investigators discovered another digital scale, according to the DEA officer.

REGULATORS

From Page 1

ward Deleon Guerrero said he and other commissioners visited the Garapan facility and, after an assessment, recommended that the casino be opened to the public.

"They [BSI] requested to open the temporary casino," Deleon Guerrero said.

In his report to the commission, Deleon Guerrero said BSI has paid for the licenses of 202 employees. The employees were required to undergo fingerprinting at the Department of Public Safety. DPS agreed to open its offices last Saturday to accommodate the long queue of BSI applicants for the fingerprinting, Deleon Guerrero said.

The other licenses paid for by BSI were 45 gaming tables and 106 slot machines.

Commissioner Joseph Reyes said that for now, the regulators will allow BSI to use its own "internal controls" while the commission completes its final regulations.

"As regulators, one of our aims is to track every dollar coming in. The internal controls they [BSI] have in the casino are even better than some banks," Reyes said.

One of the key components of internal controls is tracking down the money generated by the casino on a regular basis.

Deleon Guerrero said the commissioners and some commission staff will have access to the "counting room" as part of their regulatory tasks.

Members of the casino commission have also agreed to work in shifts, while hiring for more staff continues.

The question of the legality of opening the temporary casino was also discussed by regulators.

Commission legal counsel Michael Ernest said certain provisions of Public Law 18-56, or the casino law, allows the opening of the temporary casino.

'Historic'

With the authorization, BSI opened the doors of its casino on Sunday mid-noon, becoming the very first casino on Saipan.

According to CEO Mark Brown, it was a "soft opening" with only six gaming tables offering baccarat, a card game favored by Chinese players.

But Brown said "it was a very good turnout for all of us" and that he had to open three more tables.

In one corner of the casino are shiny gaming machines. However, these are not in operation yet because they have to be tested and certified.

Brown said a third-party firm will soon start testing the 106 machines. By early August, these machines will be ready, he said.

'Deal'

A crowd of mostly Chinese players were seen occupying most of the gaming tables and most of the nine tables were full, with five or more players at each table.

Each table was surrounded by curious onlookers as well as other players lining up for their turn on the tables.

Most of the baccarat dealers were local residents. Supervisors were also seen assisting the dealers.

These dealers, according to Brown, came from a training facility that BSI had set up at the nearby Bank of Guam building across the T Galleria.

Some 30 locals are "tapped in" as dealers, Brown added.

"After just more than two months of training, here they are. I am satisfied with their work so far," Brown said.

According to him, some 150 local workers were deployed on the first day of the casino, handling the casino's security, bar, and a snack lounge, among others.

"We did not advertise for this opening. We plan to have a formal opening in August," he said, adding that he is satisfied with the turnout.

The casino commission gave approval for BSI to operate for 12 hours starting Sunday until Thursday. On Friday and Saturday, the casino will be open from 12pm to 2am. On Monday next week, the casino will operate for 24 hours.

Ex-CPA police officer gets 10-month prison term for 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday slapped a 10-month prison term against former Commonwealth Ports Authority police officer Floyd Mafnas Mendiola for twice helping to facilitate the sale of methamphetamine or "ice."

Mendiola was ordered to pay a $100 court assessment fee. He will be required to perform 100 hours of community service. After completing his sentence, Mendiola will be placed on three years of supervised release. During his probation, Mendiola is prohibited from entering poker arcades and from consuming alcoholic beverages.

Manglona also ordered Mendiola to participate in a substance abuse treatment program.

She noted that she heard a lot of positive things about Mendiola, like an employer who fully supports him and the prosecutor even recommending the lowest end of the sentencing guidelines range, which is 10 months imprisonment.

However, Manglona said, Mendiola needs to pay the price for his crime. She said Mendiola was in fact a law enforcer entrusted to uphold the law when he committed the crime Manglona said she trusts that Mendiola will succeed after completing the prison term.

"You are in the right track now," said Manglona, advising Mendiola to continue doing positive things after serving his prison term.

Before the judge announced the sentence, Mendiola addressed the court. He said he regrets what he had done.

"I apologized to the court for my wrongdoings," Mendiola said. "Whatever the sentence is, I will accept it."

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe had recommended 10 months in prison, which is the lowest end in the sentencing guidelines.

Backe said Mendiola was a sworn law enforcement officer at that time and that he should protect the community from methamphetamine. Imposing less than 10 months would be a terrible message to law enforcement, he said.

Attorney Joseph Horey, counsel for Mendiola, recommended a sentence of one year probation, with a condition of six months' home detention. If the court considers it necessary, some lengthier term of probation, home confinement, or combination of the two, but in any event not a term of imprisonment, Horey said.

Horey said that Mendiola's said role was that a "middleman" or "facilitator" as he did not initiate the transaction, set the terms, or share in the profits. Horey said Mendiola simply brought the buyer to the seller.

Horey also cited Mendola's excellent employment record, excellent record on pretrial release, and his counselor's commendation not only for his dedication to his own rehabilitation but for assisting others in the program to do the same.

Horey called to the witness stand Mendiola's two aunts, Frances Castro Mafnas and Remegio Castro Mafnas, and his current employer, Kevin C. Deleon Guerrero of Priority Care, who all testified of his changed character.

Deleon Guerrero said Mendiola proved that he can be relied upon so he named him to his leadership team and in three months of employment, awarded him "employee of the year."

Federal agents arrested Mendiola on May 27, 2014, after an indictment was filed charging him with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine from Feb. 27 to March 2, 2013. Mendiola pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine as part of a plea deal.

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Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $300.90 or $138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $18,054.00.
Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price $30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $490.99 or $226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $29,459.40.
Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-019

NAVY HILL PRESSURE IMPROVEMENT & WATERLINE PROJECT – PART B

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Navy Hill Pressure Improvement & Waterline Project– Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of installation of 4"Ø Distribution line; relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals; installation of new service lateral mains; cut & cap of existing waterlines; booster pump by-pass system; replacement of non-working water meters; and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 150 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **July 10, 2015 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-019, Navy Hill Pressure Improvement & Waterline Project – Part B to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 4, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurance questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the CUC Board of Directors and Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approval. If CUC Board and CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 17, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Project Manager via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez - nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, Project Engineer.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-15-IFB-009

FITME PLACE ROAD IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN, CNMI

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Fitme Place Road Improvement, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **July 27, 2015** at Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capital Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 13, 2015**, 9:00a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 21, 2015** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho , Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders knows to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or it the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-15-IFB-009".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 01, 2015.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 01, 2015** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 01, 2015** and must be received no later than **September 11, 2015.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **September 14, 2015.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **September 01, 2015.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government, A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§ 70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a.) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b.) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1.) Cash
2.) US Gov't. Securities
3.) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4.) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5.) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completing of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice of Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Fifty Dollars (US$150.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfections in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quality, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Kilili: 'The worst is over'

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) believes that, with the repair ship now fixing IT&E's broken undersea fiber optic cable, "the worst is over."

"…Going forward we need to think of a way to provide an alternative in case something like this happens again," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Sablan explained that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is not able to provide assistance to private companies like IT&E but can assist the community through non-government organizations, like the American Red Cross. The government, he said, has not submitted a request to FEMA for assistance.

Sablan contacted Gov. Eloy S. Inos in Washington, who identified a company that is currently laying down a cable between Guam and another island.

"The governor is trying to find out if the cable can include the Northern Marianas," he said.

"I think all our different companies handling telecommunications, including our government, have been working together to get this problem fixed as soon as possible. Once this problem is fixed, then sometime soon hopefully we can all sit down and figure out what really needs to be done," he added.

During the network blackout, Sablan said his primary concern was how the situation impacted the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña said the limited Internet connectivity did not prevent the hospital from providing critical services, but it hampered some activities, while creating frustration and stress. CHC had to send some of their staff to Tinian to do work involving reporting requirements to numerous granting agencies.

Telemedicine radiology and electronic prescribing was also cut off, requiring the hospital to do most of the work manually.

"It's affecting our cash flow," Muña said. "Drawdowns for federal reimbursement is almost impossible. Electronic billing is delayed and we can only file claims online a little at a time, slowing down our cash inflow."

Dozens of Public School System students who are taking online summer classes were also affected. One Rota student told *Saipan Tribune* that she was not able to submit classwork and homework assignments.

"Once connections are established and stabilized we must work twice as fast to catch up," she said.

Local artist Robert Hunter's family business, Kid Stuff, saw its sales drop by 80 percent in the first few days of the cable break. Hunter's store was unable to order merchandise, although he was recently able to place orders with an erratic connection to replenish the store's inventory. Customers also could not track items purchased through his business online.

"My little business lost a good amount of its average revenue," he said. "I can't even imagine what places like DFS, and Joeten, etcetera, lost."

He added, "I am sure that businesses that are heavily card-dependent were also especially hit hard. Then there were the issues with flights, and hotel reservations."

There must be a discussion about IT&E's accountability, according to Hunter. Competition, he said, is vital to ensure that the outage does not recur. "Our communications network is an absolute necessity in today's modern economy. It is absolutely necessary to our safety and security."

Saipan Tribune sought comment from IT&E, but did not receive a response as of press time.

While there is a promise of normality in the CNMI's communication network in the upcoming days, the question of whether or not the islands will be able to avoid the situation in the future remains.

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Telephone: (670) 323-2115

ATTORNEY FOR: Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THREE BELL SYSTEM CO., LTD., Plaintiff, vs. CHIKARA KUBOTA, Defendant.) CIVIL CASE NO. 15-0124C) **NOTICE OF ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD 7 CMC § 1301, 1302**

Based on an Ex Parte Motion for an Order to Appear or Plead pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301, by Plaintiff, THREE BELL SYSTEM CO., LTD., by and through its counsel, Timothy H. Bellas, Notice is hereby given to Defendant, CHIKARA KUBOTA, that if you wish to defend against this action which has been filed against you, you must appear or plead, within twenty-one (21) days from the date that this Notice last appears in this newspaper. Your failure to appear or plead within this time period will result in the entry of Judgment for the Plaintiff, granting the relief demanded by the Plaintiff in its Complaint.

BY: Patrick V. Diaz
Deputy Clerk of Court

CHCC in preliminary stage to restructure staff's salary

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is in the preliminary stage of restructuring the salaries of its nurses and other staff, according to chief executive officer Esther Muña.

This will help the Commonwealth Health Center be more competitive in attracting healthcare professionals, she said.

After setting a general assembly with hospital staff and management to begin the discussion of addressing salary disparities and CHCC's plans for recruitment and retention last Wednesday, July 22, more meetings will be held this week and upcoming weeks after with the other divisions.

CHCC will be including these discussions with the other divisions of CHCC such as Public Health, Rota Health Center, Tinian Health Center, Kagman Community Health Center, and Community Guidance Center.

Muña said the preliminary plan was revealed to CHC and the dialysis staff and will focus on retaining employees while recruiting more staff and developing the local health care workforce.

Muña explained that it is necessary to reconstruct the salary base to begin "rebuilding" an appropriate salary structure that is fair and competitive for the healthcare workforce in the region.

One example for the restructuring of the salaries, recruiting, and retaining was the housing allowance, which was granted to some employees and not to others. Last November, CHC housing perks for CHC staff became no more.

"It is time to have reasonable projections that in the end will be beneficial to both CHCC and the employees. This is a partnership that must happen and certain considerations were discussed and that final plans will be made but I insisted that everyone's contribution to this plan is necessary before it is considered final," Muña said.

Staff voiced their opinions on the matter and considerations mentioned were bringing back the night differential, correcting classifications of exempt employees and covered employees, recruiting more nurses, restructuring and creating classifications that are determined by skill, years of experience, and education and licensure, as well as revamping the evaluation process to a more measurable process.

"We want to retain our hard-working staff and we want them to know that they are valued and, despite the challenges CHCC has endured over the years, many of them stayed and endured these challenges with us. We want them to know that we are very appreciative of them. I am very honored to have them here working to provide health care to our people," Muña said.

Bid out for renovation of Tinian facilities

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas issued an invitation to bid last Friday for the renovation of facilities on the island that cater to the community's needs.

Three existing public facilities in San Jose—the Tinian Farmers Market, Tinian Youth Center, and the Tinian Little League Baseball facility—need to be renovated and San Nicolas said this will benefit the public and improve the look of the facilities and the island of Tinian.

"These are preexisting facilities that are in need of repair. We will be doing facelifts on the inside and outside of the facilities [former Finance building and Youth Center]. As for fields, we will fix the fencing and dugouts of the little league field at the subdivision and big league field in the village," San Nicolas said.

He said the Tinian leadership feels that the youth deserve to have improved facilities for their physical and sports activities.

"We envision using our little and big league fields for future local, regional, and international tournaments. We have already spoken to Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada who is the president of CNMI Little League. He assures us that he will work closely with us to help bring these tournaments to Tinian," San Nicolas said.

The Youth Center will be repainted, doors and other fixtures will be replaced, and the restroom will be renovated.

Also included in the project is the repair of the former Finance building for a future Farmer's Market.

"Tinian is known for its rich agriculture and fishing heritage. We would like to revitalize the agriculture industry so that our farmers, ranchers, and fishermen can take advantage of the economic growth Tinian will experience in the years to come," San Nicolas said.

After the bidding process is done, the project will be completed in 240 days. Majority of the funds will come from Capital Improvement Project bond interest funds that were appropriated by the Tinian Legislative Delegation. A portion will come from the maintenance fund through the CIP Office.

Cooperating agencies are the CIP Office, headed by Office of Management and Budget special assistant Virginia Villagomez, and Commonwealth Development Authority executive director Manny Sablan.

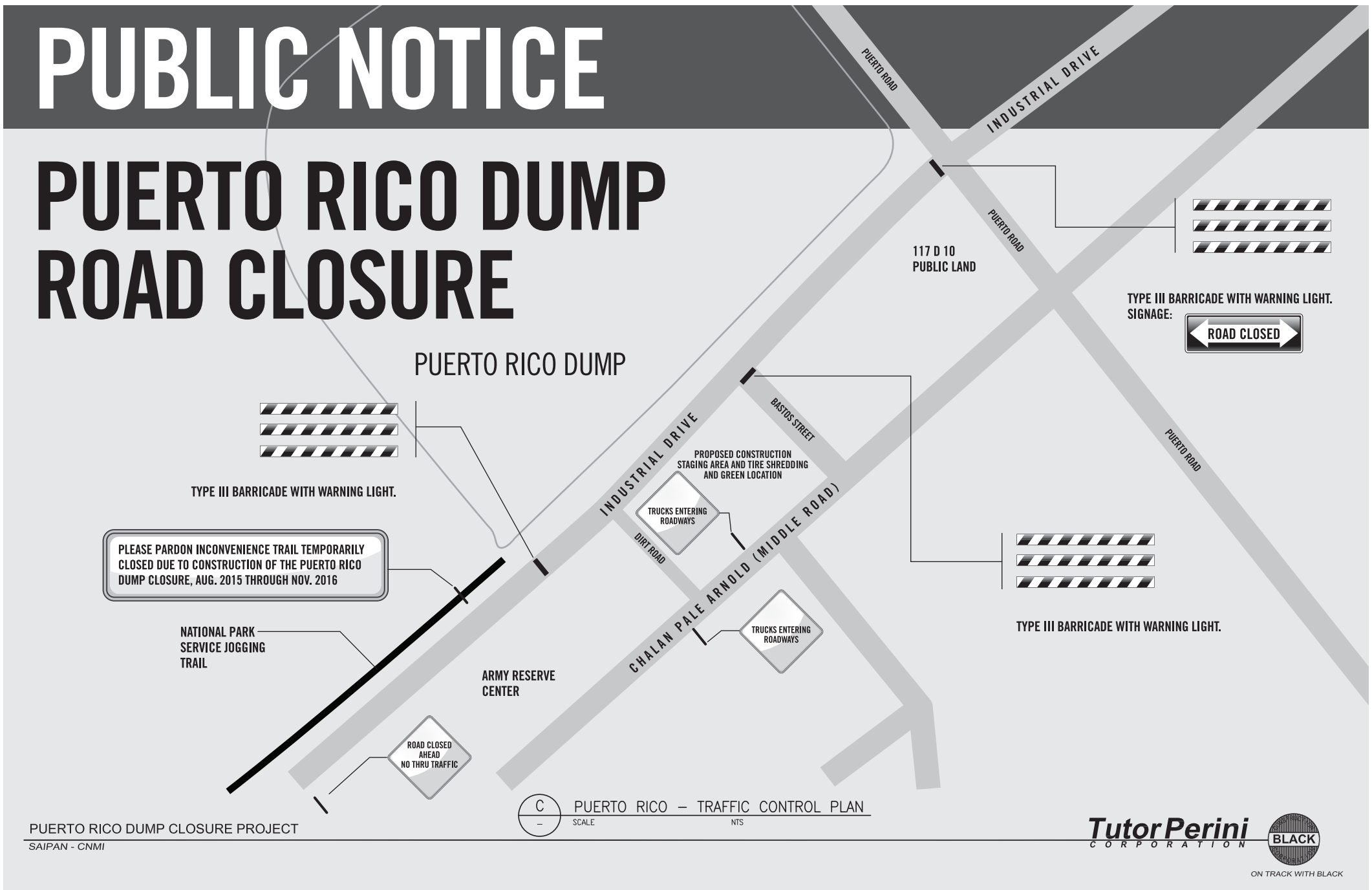
"I want to thank the Tinian leadership, CIP Office, and the Governor's Office for their support of Tinian's projects," San Nicolas said.

Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Tinian) said he has spent many years sponsoring and volunteering as a coach for Tinian youth leagues and this renovation work is an opportune time.

Tinian Delegation chair Sen. Francisco M. Borja (Ind-Tinian) said they are pleased "to be a part of the progress on Tinian. This year alone we finished the construction at the Tinian Health Center. There is ongoing construction at Tinian Department of Public Safety, and we had a groundbreaking at the Tinian International Airport last Friday."

Cleanup set for Aug. 1 at Tank Beach

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Tank Beach on Saturday, Aug, 1, 2015, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Tank Beach parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***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Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Human Resources Manager
Salary Range: $11.37 to $13.46
Bachelor Degree Holder or equivalent. At least five years working experienced in Human Resources. Ability to maintain highly confidential nature of human resources work and possess the highest degree of integrity and trustworthiness. Knowledge of EEO, FLSA, FMLA, and other applicable regulations. Knowledge of principles and procedure for personnel recruitment, selection, training, compensation and benefits, payroll system, labor relations, negotiations and personnel information system. Knowledgeable in processing various working permits and visas. Computer literate, has analytical and critical thinking skills and ability to influence others and be able to manage changes. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) Housekeeping Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least need anywhere for a few months to one year of working with experienced employees. Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal service induding handling large group of arrival. Must have the ability to supervise, experience performing housekeeping duties, hardworking, leadership ability, keen observation skills, and be detail oriented. Willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms or duties assigned every day. Has the ability to extent flexibility that included bending, twisting and lifting. Computer literate. Able to stand prolonged period of time and must possess friendly and good manners. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Food & Beverage Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
High School Diploma or Equivalent. At least two to three years working experience in related field and hotel industry. Must possess passion for quality and service excellence. Knowledgeable in principles, processes for providing customer and personal services, including customer needs assessment, meeting quality standard for services, evaluation of customer satisfaction. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environment health standards. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all time. Highly qualified in supervising restaurant point of sale, and must have the knowledge in supervising wait staff and peers. Must be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Computer literate. Acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional language is an asset. Must be able to acquire Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays

(2) Golf Course Assistant Superintendent
Salary Range: $11.37 to $12.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least five or more years of work related experience in related field. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. Requires advanced knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices; a working knowledge of golf facility construction principles, practices and methods; and thorough understanding of the rules and strategies of the game of golf. Requires excellent oral and written communication and knowledge in the game of golf. May require current certificate of licensing as pesticide applicator. Computer literate. Must be able to work under the sun, can stand for a long period of time and can lift at least 50lbs. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Accounting Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
Have at least 3 to 5 years work related experience in Hotel/Golf Course Industry or field auditing work. Have knowledge of economics and accounting principles and practices, A/P, A/R, G/L, bank analysis and reporting of financial data. Excellent in mathematical and communications skills. Ability to maintain highly confidential nature of accounting works and possess professionalism with good manners and right conducts. Knowledge in different accounting software application, must know how to operate Peachtree program and must be computer literate. Must be able to work under pressure, and meet deadlines. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Maintenance Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
At least three years of work related experience. Engineering Degree or related courses is an asset. Knowledge in selecting, maintaining, and monitoring daily operations of power plant, generators, water pumps, plumbing, electrical, welding, heating, cooling, ventilation, furnishing, fixtures, painting, carpentry, troubleshooting, and mechanical equipment. Must be able to work under the sun, can stand for prolonged period of time. Computer literate and possess email communication skills. Knowledge in all safety and hazardous standard. Has the ability to exert flexibility that includes bending, twisting, and lifting at least 50lbs. Knowledge of diesel and gasoline equipment operations. Highly qualified in supervising subordinates and possesses leadership. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(10) Greenkeepers
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or Equivalent. At least three months of work related experience and knowledge in maintaining and monitoring daily operations of the golf courses greens. Requires advance knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices, handling chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides. Knowledge of safe, efficient mechanical equipment such as tractors, mowers, and driving other motorized equipment. Knowledge of diesel and gasoline equipment operations. Ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to follow oral and written directions. Must be able to work under the sun and can stand for a prolonged period of time and capable of lifting at least 50lbs. Pesticide applicator license preferred, but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings and holidays.

(3) Bartender
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least one year working experience as a Bartender. Knowledge in different variety of cocktails, tropical, alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks. Must be able to create and possess broad ideas for mixing, creating and serving drinks. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all time. A "People Person", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages is preferred, but not required. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customer. Computer literate. Able to stand for a prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings and holidays.

(3)Cook (International Cuisine)
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. Six months to a year of work related experience. Culinary Degree Holder preferred, but not required. Excellent interpersonal skills; neat and well-groomed at all times. Able to stand for a prolonged period of time. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. Highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production of International Cuisine, like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrées. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Front Desk Clerk (Golf)
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least six months to a year of related work experience in the hotel and golf course industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality program and be able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Physically capable to lift at least 50lbs and have a valid CNMI driver's license. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time, a "People Person" and must possess a friendly and good manners. Knowledge in the game of golf preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Waiter/Waitress
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma one equivalent. At least three months of work related experience. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. A "People Person", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customers. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Lifeguard
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least for a few months to a year of related work experienced. First Aide and SPR Certified, swimmer or a certified lifeguard. She /he must be familiar with the safe handling of pool chemicals and the process to clean and sanitize the area. Possess a friendly, good moral character and good communications skills. Fit to work under the sun and willing to work in flexible shifts, in all weather conditions, days, evening, weekends and holidays. Company may require swimming tests. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Golf Course Starter
Salary Range: $6.05 to $6.25
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least few months of related work experienced. Knowledge of principle and processes for providing excellent personal and guest service skills. Be able to speak other language but not required. Must be able to work under the sun. Be able to stand prolonged period of time and capable for lifting at least 50lbs. Must be able to acquire driver's license. Possess knowledgeable in the rules of golf game. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Food & Beverage Cashier (2-Korean Speaking, 2-Chinese Speaking, 2-Japanese Speaking)
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least few months experienced in the related field. Experienced working in a restaurant navigating point of sale system is a plus. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals in the restaurant. Acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Computer literate. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, a "People Person", professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Must be able to speak and understand English language and fluent in Chinese language. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, weekends and holidays.

Front Desk Clerk (2-Korean Speaking, 2-Chinese Speaking, 2-Japanese Speaking)
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least six months to a year of related work experience in the hotel and golf course industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customers. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset but not required. A "People Person", be able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Physically capable to lift at least 50lbs and have a valid CNMI driver's license, be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners. Knowledge in the game of golf preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(9) General Maintenance
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma equivalent. One or more years of work related experienced. Engineering Degree or related courses is an asset but not required. Knowledge in keeping machines, mechanical equipment or other structure of an establishment in repair. Experience involving generators, water pumps, irrigation, deepwell, pipe fitting, insulating, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment, building repair that may include carpentry, plumbing, masonry and painting task. Must be able to work under the sun and can stand for prolonged period of time and physically can lift at least 50lbs. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(1) Accounting Clerk
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least three months working experienced in the related field. Knowledge in mathematical and communication skills is preferred. Possess the ability to maintain highly confidential nature of accounting works and possess professionalism with good manners. Computer literate and email communication awareness. Must be able to work under pressure and has the ability to work as a team, possess typing skills and attention to detail. Must have a valid driver's license. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Suwaso Corporation would like to invite all qualified US workers to send their resume/application for to hr.copspn@gmail.com or submit it to Coral Ocean Gold Resort, Human Resources Department not later than August 3, 2015 @ 1:00 pm. Include at least two recommendation letter. No phone calls please.

'Internet tourism': Tinian businesses benefit from Saipan network outage

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—Unlike the many businesses on Saipan that were and are being negatively affected by the islandwide network outage and inadequate Internet services since July 8, commerce on Tinian has actually benefitted from it.

For almost three weeks now, Saipan has been struggling with negligible Internet connection, rendering some businesses such as Internet cafés useless.

As a result, Tinian experienced what Mayor Joey San Nicolas called "Internet tourism." The island has suddenly become the place to be for Saipan residents who have extreme need for Internet and are willing to shell out $70 for the airfare just to have better access.

According to Lot Bunao of J.C. Café Restaurant, she noticed an increase of customers these past days. Lawyers and businessmen were among those who have been frequenting their place.

"We had customers that stayed here in the restaurant because they wanted to use the Internet. They didn't even stay in hotels," Bunao said. "Some even just stayed in the airport because all they need is to use the Internet."

Despite being initially affected by the network outage, Tinian wasn't as badly impacted as Saipan with regards to Internet connectivity and capacity. Even 4G connections on Tinian were restored "immediately" when compared to Saipan's restoration.

Lorilynn Hotel also saw an increase in guests the past week, according to Digna, one of their employees.

For San Nicolas, they indeed gained something from Saipan's limited Internet capacity.

"Agencies and businesses have come to Tinian to take advantage of our Internet here and we, of course, allow them to come into our office and use our WiFi or anywhere else within the island," San Nicolas said.

He added that they welcomed those who came for help.

"We were very sad that the CNMI had to endure that, but very good for Tinian because we actually had more people coming to Tinian for that single purpose of using the Internet," San Nicolas said. "We're just being good neighbors."

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Enough bloody wake-up calls on guns

We've heard the words and felt the frustration.

This time it was the police chief in Lafayette, La., speaking in the aftermath of another anguishing spasm of gun violence.

"Why this city, why this movie, why those people?" Jim Craft wondered.

The answer is because in this country, it could be anywhere, anytime, anyone. We've seen it so often we know the roll call, and the horrors each name evokes.

It's Aurora, Colo.; Charleston, S.C.; Newtown, Conn.; Fort Hood, Texas; Columbine, Colo.; Santa Barbara, Calif.; Tucson, Ariz.; Blacksburg, W. Va.; Chattanooga, Tenn. And now, Lafayette.

It's a movie theater, a church, an elementary school, a military base, a high school, a sorority house, a supermarket, a college campus, a military recruiting center. And now, another theater.

It's young men who hated. It's men with mental illness. It's men with guns.

Mass killings dominate news cycles. Other shootings, often with illegal guns sold in NYC and around the country, fill the stat sheet.

An emotional Barack Obama, just hours before a deranged drifter opened fire in the Lafayette cinema, said gun safety is the area in which he's been most frustrated in six years as president. The number of Americans killed by terrorism since 9/11, he said, is less than 100. The number lost to gun violence in that time is in the tens of thousands.

How can we not get serious about treating our national problem? Why won't we act to keep "instruments of death"—the term used by the father of an Aurora victim in the wake of the slaughter in Lafayette—out of the hands of those incapable of using them responsibly? Why is someone always lamenting not having intervened to get help for someone so clearly in need of it? When will we finally confront our culture of violence?

We've had enough wake-up calls. How many must die before we listen?

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Hillary Clinton's fair growth gambit

By DOYLE MCMANUS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

For most of a generation, Democrats have divided into two broad camps on economic policy. There are "growth Democrats," who argue that a rising tide will lift all boats; that was the reigning view during the Bill Clinton administration under Treasury Secretaries Robert Rubin and Lawrence H. Summers. And there are "fairness Democrats," who argue that the central problem is inequality. That's the view of the party's progressive wing, led today by Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

As she began spelling out her views for the 2016 presidential campaign, Hillary Rodham Clinton faced a choice: Which Democrat was she going to be?

Her answer: She wants to be both. "I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy," she said last week. "You can't have one without the other."

Politically, that put Clinton exactly where she wants to be: to the left of her husband's long-ago administration, which progressives think was too solicitous toward Wall Street, but to the right of Sanders, who's running as the scourge of the billionaire class.

So her economic policy speech included a dose of the pro-worker Hillary, calling for stronger union bargaining power and demanding equal pay for equal work, but also the pro-business Hillary, extolling entrepreneurs and promising to be "the small-business president."

There was recycled Obama administration policy too: a higher minimum wage, an infrastructure bank, investment in education and renewable energy. In economic policy a Hillary Clinton presidency would look more like a third Obama term than a third Bill Clinton term.

But she offered some intriguing new elements as well—policies that could not only help her bridge the gaps between her party's wings but also make her pitch more than just a warmed-over version of the last eight years.

She promised proposals to promote long-term investment by businesses instead of a chase for quarterly results—a problem she called "short-termism." (It may be the first time any presidential candidate has ever used that word.)

"Too many pressures in our economy push us toward short-termism," Clinton said. "Everything is focused on the next earnings report or the short-term share price, and the result is too little attention to the sources of long-term growth: research and development, physical capital and talent."

She promised proposals for "making sure stock buybacks aren't used only for an immediate boost in share prices," a practice economists fear is soaking up funds that might go to more productive investments. And she said she wants to make sure stock markets "work for everyday investors, not just high-frequency traders."

Clinton hasn't spelled out any details yet. But it sounded as though she may propose changing Securities and Exchange Commission rules to make it harder for companies to buy back their own stock, an idea Warren and other progressives have championed.

Aides said Clinton also plans to propose changes in the tax treatment of capital gains—income from investments—to reward long-term investors. Laurence Fink, chairman of the investment firm BlackRock, has proposed lengthening the holding period for long-term capital gains (which benefit from a low tax rate) from one year to three years, and perhaps making all gains tax-free after 10 years.

"U.S. tax policy, as it stands, incentivizes short-term behavior," Fink wrote. "Tax reform that promotes long-term investment will benefit both the companies who rely on capital markets and the hundreds of millions of people saving for retirement."

Finally, Clinton called for a broader shift in the way American businesses behave. "We need to get businesses back looking after their employees and their customers and their communities and our country, not just their executives and their shareholders," she said in New Hampshire on Thursday.

In effect, she was arguing for abandoning a principle many U.S. firms have followed since the 1970s: the idea that the sole duty of a corporation is to maximize shareholder value.

"There's increasing debate in the business community over a fundamental question: What's the purpose of a corporation?" Judith Samuelson, director of the Aspen Institute's Business and Society Program, told me. "We've been in thrall to a very simplistic idea—that the purpose is to maximize shareholder value. But that's not the only purpose, and it doesn't need to be."

Some of these ideas, intriguingly, appeal not only to Democratic business leaders but to some Republicans, too. Conservative writer James Pethokoukis of the American Enterprise Institute warned: "Arguing against short-termism should be a natural fit for Republicans. ... Hillary Clinton just stole a potentially powerful theme right from under them."

The details will be important, of course. But Clinton has managed not only to find a sensible starting point in the middle of the Democratic Party; she's introduced some useful new ideas to the campaign and launched a debate that will force rivals in both parties to respond.

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

While Saipan was offline

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio is a veteran journalist in the CNMI.

Saipan was cut off from the outside world, but the world (or portions of it) talked about Saipan for days.

And some accounts (delivered to the outside world at the time) of what was happening or what may have happened on Saipan were a bit ripe for an apocalypse movie about a tiny U.S. island in the Western Pacific. (Yes, too much Hollywood and Netflix is bad for you, sometimes).

Saipan experienced a technology blackout for several hours beginning in the early morning hours of July 8 but the situation was upgraded to "limited connectivity" hours later—all as a result of a cut in the only undersea cable linking the CNMI to the outside world.

Within hours, Guam media such as *Pacific Daily News,* KUAM News, and Pacific News Center reported the massive disruption in phone, Internet, banking, and other communications services on Saipan.

People outside Saipan were getting the news from sources outside the CNMI, which were also posted and re-posted several times on Facebook.

For those on Saipan, the cut in IT&E's undersea cable meant being unable to make and receive phone calls, being unable to send and receive text messages, being unable to send or receive emails, being unable to read online news or do online searches, being unable to post on or access Facebook, and not knowing what's happening outside Saipan.

That also meant not being able to use credit cards to buy the most basic of needs such as food and water, and not being able to withdraw cash from ATMs. Flights to and from Saipan were cancelled or delayed.

Typhoon Nangka was threatening the CNMI at the time and, a day later, pummeled Alamagan and two other northern islands but the limited to nonexistent connectivity made it harder to monitor the impacts.

For the Guam media, updates about the Saipan cable cut—from the partial IT&E service restoration to impacts on the economy and island security, a declaration of a state of emergency in the CNMI, and arrival of the repair ship late last week—was a staple for days and weeks.

Radio New Zealand also came up with its series of stories: "Life in CNMI hamstrung by communications blackout." "Communications outage devastates CNMI businesses." "Weeks of limited services ahead for CNMI." "State of emergency declared in CNMI."

And when the Associated Press got hold of it, the Saipan undersea cable cut story reached a broader national and international audience. More so when the AP story got picked up by, say, Yahoo News ("Pacific islands cable breaks, cutting off phones, Internet").

Some world technology news and websites were also all of a sudden talking about Saipan and in the process gave their audience a lesson in world geography and a little bit about the United States' island territories.

Ars Technica wrote, "Broken cable reportedly disconnected U.S. island territory from Internet: Northern Mariana Islands relies on a single undersea fiber cable, which broke."

Tech Times said pretty much the same thing with its piece, "Break in lone undersea cable cuts Northern Mariana Islands off from Internet." And so did iTech Post when it released, "New cable cut shuts down banking and phones."

There's also Military Technologies, which posted, "Undersea cable break disrupts life in Northern Mariana Islands." The Economic Times wrote, "Pacific islands cable breaks, cutting off phones, Internet." TeleGeography: Authoritative Telecom Data was also on the Saipan issue in its latest "guide to the week's submarine and terrestrial developments."

Meanwhile, on the beautiful tropical island of Saipan itself, life went on.

Despite the inconveniences of not having mobile phone services and Internet connections, people saw silver linings. Saipan's magnificent waters, vast blue skies, lush greenery and overall natural beauty became more engaging once again. Pathways and beach parks got busier than usual.

Some people rediscovered the joy of face-to-face communication, or got reacquainted with landlines and dial-ups. Friends and families talked more on the dining table instead of getting busy with their phones. Books gathering dust on shelves comforted their owners. Gardening and other household chores put off for days or weeks were done. Cash on hand became better than plastic cards.

Some said it's unlikely that the only undersea cable linking the CNMI to the rest of the world was a work of terrorism or was cut intentionally, but the incident exposed once again the vulnerability of the CNMI's communication infrastructure.

Saipan has participated in a lot of U.S.-funded terrorism-related emergency preparedness training (for example, how to respond to a biological weapon of mass destruction released on the island or when a person or persons start taking in hostages). But nothing prepared Saipan for a technology outage caused by well, nature; at least the initial stories were pointing to weather disturbance that caused the undersea cable to snap.

For all it's worth, people learned their lessons and the CNMI government has one other thing to plan for in the long-term.

And shortly before the undersea cable cut, the CNMI saw the seeming end to the story of former governor Benigno R. Fitial's rise and fall. Fitial, who became not only the first CNMI governor to be impeached but also the first one to be convicted for crimes committed while in office, was sentenced to serve one year in prison but that sentence was commuted shortly before he could spend a day in jail.

Luckily for Fitial and Gov. Eloy S. Inos, the backlash over the unprecedented sentence commutation on July 5 was short-lived when public attention shifted to Saipan's technology outage, which has the potential to bring down the entire CNMI economy in just a matter of days had it not been promptly addressed by IT&E.

Nevertheless, both events are already in the running for being on the list of the "biggest stories for 2015."

Trust, the most valued and valuable quality

By MICHAEL DOBIE
NEWSDAY

My grandson looks at me expectantly, waiting for an answer. It doesn't matter what the question is. He's 4 years old, and trusts implicitly whatever I say. I hope never to lose that.

I've been thinking a lot about trust. The most recent spur was the nuclear arms deal with Iran and the radioactive fallout over whether that country will adhere to the agreement. Don't trust them. Trust but verify. Don't trust and verify. Don't ever under any circumstance at any point of any day anytime anywhere trust them. And on it goes.

Trust also is emerging as a major theme of the 2016 presidential campaign, with one Republican after another lambasting Democrat Hillary Clinton's supposed lack of trustworthiness as reflected in polling. The irony is rich, given her TV commercial during the 2008 primaries against Barack Obama that essentially asked viewers whom they trusted more to answer the phone at 3am with the nation's security in the balance.

Whatever your views, it's clear that to most of us, trust matters. Intensely. It always has. It's the most valuable currency in politics—and in everyday life.

We trust doctors with our health, mechanics with our cars, teachers and coaches and baby sitters with our children, investment advisers with our money, the driver in the next lane with our lives.

We hold dear the axiom that a person is as good as his or her word. In sports and the military, trusting one's peers is revered. It's no accident the first words of the Boy Scout Law are: A Scout is trustworthy.

Some 2,500 years ago, the philosopher Confucius laid out three things all rulers need: weapons, food and trust. And the one no ruler could do without, he said, was trust: "Without trust we cannot stand."

And yet, trust in the public sphere is ever harder to find in an era of National Security Agency spying, stunning bureaucratic incompetence, rampant corruption and political flip-flopping. Yes, elected officials and candidates have every right to change their minds as they mature—nowadays they say their thinking has "evolved"—but not overnight and not only when it's finally safe.

This erosion of trust in government has been gradual but continuous since Watergate exploded in 1972. Now, a mere 13 percent of Americans say they trust government to do the right thing all or most of the time (big business fares scarcely better, at 17 percent).

Our leaders shun the advice offered by George MacDonald, a Scottish writer and minister whose fantasy novels inspired J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Madeleine L'Engle, among others. "To be trusted is a greater compliment than being loved," MacDonald said.

But our politicians keep opting for love—that is, popularity.

Whether the violation of trust is saying one thing but doing another, performing inappropriate favors for one's family and friends, or getting caught with one's own hand in the public coffers, the consequences are corrosive.

We learn to be not merely skeptical, but to distrust. A skeptic probes and questions. That's healthy. But distrust is hostile and unhealthy, and it means something has gone awry.

Some of today's distrust is purely political, true. But much is hard-earned and real. When you evaluate a candidate, do you find it sufficient enough to analyze policy proposals? Or do you find yourself asking: Is this a person I can trust?

I know what my grandson's answer is about me. And I'm working hard to keep his trust.

Michael Dobie is a member of the Newsday *editorial board. Readers may send him email at Michael.dobie@newsday.com.*

My life as a celebrity imposter

By MEGAN RITCHIE JOOSTE
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

I was an A-list celebrity for one single summer. Women shoved babies into my arms for photographs. Crowds chanted my name. It was an intoxicating time. For an entire season, I was perpetually the most popular person in the room. Yet I barely earned minimum wage.

Through some twist of fate, a manager in the entertainment division of Six Flags Great Adventure gave me a second glance as I sat down for an interview at the onset of the park's busy summer season.

"Hey, how much do you weigh?" she asked, interrupting my canned response to the greatest weakness/greatest strength question.

It was the new millennium, I was in college, and I was applying for work in an amusement park. I didn't even feign shock at the question. She then asked my height and if I could dance. I only fibbed once.

Sadly, being Bugs Bunny also alerted me to a wide range of bad human behavior. Sure, a portion of the slaps and jabs regularly aimed at my caricatured features were playful, but I was also subjected to a level of violence I had luckily never experienced before. Young men beat me up, and grown women felt me up. A great number of people beyond the age of about 12 wanted nothing more than to find out the sex of the person who wore the suit. "What you got under there, Bugs?" one woman whispered into my giant right ear while groping at my torso. I managed to twist away, Bugs' face frozen in a wide smile.

Bugs Bunny was the irrefutable king of the park. He greeted guests as they entered, and dispatched them into the night as the star of each evening's show. But he wasn't me. And I was never allowed to get too big for my britches. After the nightly performance was through, each and every one of the characters would push through the crowds, doling out hugs and autographs as we made our way back to the trailer at the back of the park. Once indoors, we shed the costumes, donned our standard-issue polo shirts and khakis, and headed back out to the stage to sweep trash before the cleaning crews started their shifts. We were reprimanded if we dallied too long in the trailer.

Out near the entrance, as I collected discarded napkins and cigarette butts, I regularly recognized faces among the departing that were, just moments before, screaming at Bugs for an autograph. Not a one gave me a second glance as a street sweeper. This is when I learned the sweet freedom of anonymity—though, frankly, I still preferred the accolades.

But it was one single child who made the biggest impact on me that season. I had just finished a particularly grueling midafternoon performance in August when a little boy grabbed my gloved hand as I tried to slip past the crowd and back to the air-conditioned trailer.

"Hey," the boy said, looking up into the dark mesh that surrounded the eyes in my costume. "Are you smiling in there?"

I looked down at him, and marveled at the magic that allowed him to see me and the mask I was wearing—and to genuinely care about both. To love and acknowledge both the person and the suit. What a lesson in empathy. I reached out to grasp his five fingers in my four.

"Are you?" he repeated, looking straight through Bugs' eyes and into my own.

I nodded.

Megan Ritchie Jooste is a Philadelphia writer who wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English-anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 12, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Rota holds inaugural 4th of July celebration

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Rota held its first Independence Day celebration last week, after postponing the three-day event due to typhoons Chanhom and Nangka. Mayor Efraim M. Atalig, members of the 15th Rota Municipal Council, and the Rota Legislative Delegation hosted the 4th of July revelry, themed "Peace in Diversity."

According to special assistant for programs and grants Aubry Hocog, the festivities kicked off last Tuesday with a karaoke contest, which garnered 20 participants. On Wednesday, residents took part in a *tong-its* (a type of card game) and Texas Hold'em tournament along with a family movie night.

The event culminated with a mini-float parade at the Joaquin M. Ogo Baseball field in Sinapalo 1. Out of 10 participating agencies, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. won first place for best float, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources came in second, and the Inetnon Man Amako' Luta Association took third.

"This was the first time this event occurred and it turned out to be a success as majority of the members of our community came out to support, cheer, and participate in our events," Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* in an email. "Local vendors were present to sell their food and other items."

Dr. Hu Bo and members of the Skywalker Communications Group as well as the Saipan Liberation Royal Court were in attendance.

In his brief address, Atalig expressed his appreciation for the men and women serving in the armed forces so that citizens can pursue the American dream.

According to Hocog, "It has always been the mayor's desire and intent to provide programs and events for the people of Rota."

The mayor's office plans to host monthly community events for residents and tourists to enjoy in the future.

Dr. Hu Bo, members of the Skywalker Communications Group, Saipan Liberation Royal Court, and Rota officials pose for a photo at the Joaquin M. Ogo Baseball Field in Sinapalo 1 during the island's first Independence Day celebration.
THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Rota police officers escort floats throughout Sinapalo village while residents and tourists look on.
THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Rota's Department of Lands and Natural Resources' float.
THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Saipan Computer Services, NikeGolf donate $10K in-kind

Saipan Computer Services, together with NikeGolf, has announced that they are donating over $10,000 worth of balls, bags, and golf accessories as giveaways and prizes for the upcoming Tournament of Champions to be held on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 1 and 2.

"It is an honor to be part of the TOC, which supports important community projects and destination enhancements," said Jerry Tiu, general manager of Saipan Computer Services. "We are excited to celebrate the event's 20th year!"

"In conjunction with the 20th TOC, we will be conducting a free demo and a free fitting of the latest and game changing golf equipment from NikeGolf. Please do not miss the chance to join us on Thursday and Friday, July 30 and 31, from 2pm to 6pm at the LaoLao Bay Driving Range," said John Botelho, NikeGolf Rep assigned for the Micronesian Area.

"Year after year, Saipan Computer Services and NikeGolf have supported the Tournament of Champions with their generous contributions," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We are extremely thankful for their longstanding commitment to the tournament and their partnership through all these years."

The 20th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 1 and 2. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes.

The TOC tournament fee is $200.

Winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 cash, $300 cash, a digital camera, and $100 DFS gift certificate for the first to fifth place, respectively. The Ladies Low Gross winners will receive $500, $400, and $300 cash for first to third place respectively. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will each receive a trophy.

Hundreds of thousands worth of prizes will be at stake in the two-day tournament. Hole-in-one prizes include brand new vehicles donated by Atkins Kroll Toyota, Joeten Motors, Triple J Motors, and Club C, cash prizes from Pacifica Insurance and Club C, one year free golf pass from LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, and airline tickets from Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the planning committee for the 2015 Tournament of Champions pose with representatives of Saipan Computer Services with their donation. The Tournament of Champions will be held on Aug. 1 and 2 at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

The event will also be giving away $1,000 cash prize for the Closest-To-Pin competitions plus a 25-year-old bottle of Chivas Regal.

Since its inception, TOC has turned over over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Hillary Agulto at 236-2571. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Business

Source: US to hit Fiat Chrysler with record $105M fine

DETROIT (AP)—The U.S. government will hit Fiat Chrysler with a record $105 million fine next week for violating laws in a series of vehicle safety recalls, a person briefed on the matter said.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will reveal the fine on Monday. In addition, Fiat Chrysler will be required to buy back a group of recalled vehicles to get them off the roads, said the person, who didn't want to be identified because no official announcement has been made.

Fiat Chrysler, also known as FCA US LLC, also will agree to an independent monitor to review recalls.

The company will make payments to owners of 1.56 million recalled older-model Jeeps with gas tanks behind the rear axle to bring them to dealers to install trailer hitches to help protect the tanks. The tanks are vulnerable and can leak gasoline if damaged in rear collisions. The company maintains the Jeeps are as safe as comparable vehicles built at the time, and it will not buy them back.

AP
In this Tuesday, May 6, 2014, file photo, the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles sign is seen after being unveiled at Chrysler World Headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich.

The news was first reported Sunday by The Wall Street Journal on its website.

The agency's actions come less than a month after it held a rare public hearing to detail problems with 23 Fiat Chrysler recalls covering more than 11 million cars and trucks. It's another sign that NHTSA is taking a much tougher stance against automakers that don't obey auto safety laws.

The fine beats the old record of $70 million assessed against Honda Motor Co. for lapses in recalls of air bags made by Takata Corp.

At the July 2 hearing, NHTSA detailed an alarming litany of shortfalls: failure to notify customers of recalls, delays in making and distributing repair parts, and in some cases failing to come up with repairs that fix the problems. Some of the recalls date to 2013.

After the hearing, NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind told reporters that Fiat Chrysler would surely be punished. "There's a pattern that's been going on for some time," he said.

During the hearing, Fiat Chrysler did not dispute any of NHTSA's allegations. Scott Kunselman, the company's head of vehicle safety, said it is changing the way it manages safety to follow the industry's best practices. The safety system, he said, has been reorganized with added personnel. He now reports directly to CEO Sergio Marchionne. Previously the person in his position was three rungs down the organization chart from the chief executive, he said.

"We have learned from our mistakes and missteps," he said.

SIDEBAR

Fiat Chrysler to recall more than 1.6 million vehicles in US

NEW YORK (AP)—Fiat Chrysler is recalling more than 1.6 million vehicles in the U.S. to fix two separate issues affecting its Ram pickup trucks.

The first recall is to repair a steering wheel wiring harness that could rub against a spring in the air bag module. The resulting abrasion from the friction could cause an electrical short, prompting the front air bags to unexpectedly deploy. The recall affects just over 1 million 2012 to 2014 Ram trucks that were manufactured between January, 2011 and October, 2014.

The automaker is also recalling more than half a million trucks to fix faulty impact sensors. The faulty sensors could cause seat belt pre-tensioners to activate and air bags to deploy unexpectedly, increasing the risk of a crash or injury, according to a statement posted on the U.S. Department of Transportation website.

Fiat Chrysler said it is aware of two minor injuries that were potentially related to the sensor fault, but no accidents. The company also said in an e-mailed statement that the impact sensor problem mainly affected four-door vehicles. The sensor issue affects 667,406 in the U.S. and 176,130 vehicles overseas.

The automaker said Friday that it was recalling about 1.4 million cars and trucks in the U.S. after two hackers revealed that they were able to take control of a Jeep Cherokee SUV over the Internet. In that recall, Fiat Chrysler said it would update software to insulate the vehicles from being remotely controlled.

Greek invites IMF to join bailout talks, should begin Monday

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece on Friday invited the International Monetary Fund to participate in its negotiations with European creditors over a vital third bailout—talks that are expected to start next week after a few days' delay and must conclude before Greece faces another big repayment Aug. 20.

Negotiators are now expected to arrive in Athens over the weekend with talks probably starting Monday, Greek officials said.

In a statement Friday evening, the IMF confirmed it had received Greece's request for a new IMF loan and said it would work to arrange talks with Greece and its European creditors.

Athens is looking to secure yet another bailout—the third since its finances imploded in 2009—worth 85 billion euros ($93 billion) over three years. Without the money, the country faces imminent bankruptcy and a probable exit from the shared euro currency.

The letter to the IMF, signed by Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos, formally requests a new bailout from the fund. That is in accordance with the preliminary third bailout agreement Greece struck with its European partners on July 12, which called for IMF financing and monitoring for Greece from March 2016—when current IMF financing ends.

The letter said Athens believes it will take "several quarters" before the Greek economy faces up to its challenges "and returns to a vigorous and sustainable path to growth with fairness and social inclusion."

AP
Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras speaks with a journalist during a meeting with the Greek President and other political party leaders, ahead of a meal to mark the 41st anniversary of the country's return to democracy after the 1974 fall of the junta then ruling Greece, at the presidential palace in Athens, Friday, July 24, 2015.

"We look forward to continued cooperation with the Fund," it added.

Greek government spokeswoman Olga Gerovasili said the final third bailout agreement will be brought to Greece's parliament for approval on Aug. 18.

"Clearly, the negotiations will be constant until then," she said Friday.

Greece has a debt repayment of around 3.2 billion euros ($3.5 billion) to the European Central Bank on Aug. 20.

Greece's five-year financial crisis took a dramatic turn for the worse this summer, after talks between its radical left-led government elected in January and the country's creditors nearly collapsed amid sharp disagreements over the reforms required in return for the rescue loans. The new bailout was only possible after Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras made a sharp U-turn from years of vehemently opposing further cutbacks.

Since its first bailout in 2010, Greece's economy has shrunk by a quarter, while unemployment has rocketed to record peacetime highs and incomes have shrunk an average of 40 percent. Much of the pain has been attributed to the income cuts and tax hikes demanded by creditors.

It's unclear to what extent IMF participation complicates the latest bailout talks. The fund has been critical of many of the demands insisted upon by Greece's European creditors but it also says Greece needs deep, meaningful debt relief—something that Germany and other European nations are dead set against.

Gerovasili said the IMF position on Greece's crippling debt load—the highest in the 19-country eurozone - "is clearly something we agree with."

But she added the fund "is tougher in negotiations, with harsher terms, and is not very agreeable to us as a negotiator."

Gerovasili dismissed reports that security concerns delayed the talks Friday, blaming "technical issues" instead.

"Greece is a safe country," Gerovasili said. "Both sides are trying to expedite the start of talks."

The final hurdle Greece had to clear before talks could restart came early Thursday when Greek lawmakers approved creditor-demanded judicial and banking reforms. A week earlier, parliament approved new laws introducing steep sales tax increases. In spite of a revolt from his own Syriza party, Tsipras managed to get both reforms passed with the help of pro-European opposition parties.

Top Greek banking and finance ministry officials met with Greek business leaders Friday to discuss ways of easing financial transactions, which are being restricted by the capital controls introduced last month.

Verizon workers vote to authorize strike, if necessary

NEW YORK (AP)—Verizon workers in nine states have voted to go on strike if necessary over a dispute about a new contract, a union official said at a rally Saturday.

"Our members are clear and they are determined," said Dennis Trainor, an official with the Communications Workers of America union. "They reject management's harsh concessionary demands."

At the rally in New York, the CWA announced that 86 percent of Verizon workers who voted in a recent poll backed strike action if required. A contract that covers 39,000 workers represented by the CWA and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers expires at midnight on August 1.

The contract covers employees the nine states from Massachusetts to Virginia who work for Verizon's wireline business, which provides fixed-line phone services and FiOS Internet service.

The unions say the telecom giant is demanding that workers sharply increase their health care contributions and make concession on pensions.

Verizon spokesman Rich Young said that the company had made the unions "a solid proposal that recognizes the changing communications landscape and offers a path toward success."

Many of the aspects of the contracts that were set "decades ago" were no longer relevant in an industry that was facing increased pressure and structural change, Young said. He also said that the company had been training non-union employees to take on additional roles to ensure that there was no disruption to customers in the event of a strike.

The contract also affects wireline workers in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, as well as Washington, D.C.

Nation

Movie theater shooter's mental problems didn't stop gun buy

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP)—John Russell Houser was deeply troubled long before he shot 11 people in a movie theater in Louisiana, but decades of mental problems didn't keep him from buying the handgun he used.

Despite obvious and public signs of mental illness—most importantly, a Georgia judge's order committing him to mental health treatment against his will as a danger to himself and others in 2008—Houser was able to walk into an Alabama pawn shop six years later and buy a .40-caliber handgun.

It was the same weapon Houser used to kill two people and wound nine others before killing himself at a Thursday showing of "Trainwreck." Three people remained hospitalized Saturday.

Court records reviewed by The Associated Press strongly suggest Houser should have been reported to the state and federal databases used to keep people with serious mental illnesses from buying firearms, legal experts said.

"It sure does seem like something failed," said Judge Susan Tate, who presides over a probate court in Athens, Georgia, and has studied issues relating to weapons and the mentally ill. "I have no idea how he was able to get a firearm."

Houser never should have been able to buy a gun, said Sheriff Heath Taylor in Russell County, Alabama, whose office denied him a concealed weapons permit in 2006 based on arson and domestic violence allegations, even though the victims declined to pursue charges.

Houser racked up plenty of complaints, but no evidence has surfaced of any criminal conviction that would have kept him from passing the background check required for many gun purchases. Federal law does generally prohibit the purchase or possession of a firearm by anyone who has ever been involuntarily committed for mental health treatment.

That's what happened to Houser in 2008 after his family accused him of threatening behavior, warning authorities that he had a history of bipolar disorder and was making ominous statements. His wife removed his guns and together, the family persuaded a judge to issue a protective order keeping him away once he left the hospital.

At that point, court officials should have reported Houser's involuntary mental commitment to the Georgia database that feeds the FBI's background check system, which provides for a delay of up to three days when records suggest a buyer may be ineligible.

Questions about gaps in the system also arose after James Holmes bought firearms to kill 12 people and wound 58 others in a Denver suburb three years ago, and after Dylann Storm Roof allegedly used a gun he bought this year to murder nine churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina.

But while both young men showed signs of trouble, neither had criminal convictions, nor were they hospitalized against their will.

Roof had admitted to illegal drug possession in a pending criminal case, however, which under federal rules would have been enough to disqualify him from a gun purchase even though he wasn't convicted.

But the FBI background check examiner never saw Roof's arrest report because the wrong arresting agency was listed in state records, and the three-day hold timed out without a clear answer, so the gun dealer used his discretion to complete the sale.

AP

Mourners, Christina Walls, left, embraces Diana Lennon, right, during a candlelight vigil to honor the victims of Thursday night's shooting at The Grand 16 theater Friday, July 24, 2015, in Lafayette, La.

ACROSS THE NATION

Oklahoma 16-year-old to be charged as adult in stabbings

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—An Oklahoma 16-year-old will be charged as an adult alongside his older brother in the stabbing deaths of his parents and three siblings at a suburban Tulsa home, authorities said Saturday. The suspect will face the same counts as his 18-year-old brother, Robert Bever, who is accused in a booking document of five counts of first-degree murder and a count of aggravated assault in the Wednesday night attack in Broken Arrow. Police have not released the 16-year-old's name, but Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler confirmed Saturday both siblings have been booked on first-degree murder complaints. It wasn't immediately clear in jail records when either sibling is due in court.

Damaged Shell icebreaker arrives in Oregon for repairs

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Environmental activists in Portland are protesting the arrival of the Fennica, a vessel that Royal Dutch Shell PLC plans to use in its Arctic offshore drilling project after it's repaired. The damaged ship, a 380-foot icebreaker, arrived at a Swan Island dry dock about 3 a.m. Saturday. The icebreaker is a key part of Shell's exploration and spill-response plan off Alaska's northwest coast. It protects Shell's fleet from ice and carries equipment that can stop gushing oil. The Fennica was damaged earlier this month in the Aleutian Islands when it struck an underwater obstruction, tearing a gash in its hull.

Hundreds bid farewell to woman who died in Texas jail cell

LISLE, Ill. (AP)—Family and friends of an Illinois woman found dead in a Texas jail remembered her Saturday as a "courageous voice" for social justice and promised to keep fighting for clarity on the circumstances surrounding her death. Hundreds of people attended Sandra Bland's funeral near the Chicago suburb where she grew up. They celebrated her life with words and songs of praise, and her mother danced in the church aisle with her arms raised. She and other mourners, though, said they were still struggling to understand how a traffic stop for failing to use a turn signal escalated into a physical confrontation and landed her in the cell where authorities say she killed herself three days later. The Harris County, Texas, medical examiner's office determined through an autopsy that Bland hanged herself with a plastic bag. The 28-year-old woman's family has questioned the finding, saying she was excited about starting a new job and wouldn't have taken her own life.

25 years on, disabilities act has changed lives of millions

NEW YORK (AP)—Five days before he was to start college, Fred Maahs' world turned upside down. Off the Delaware coast in 1980, on the last day of summer vacation, the 18-year-old took a dive from his family's boat into an unseen sandbar barely a foot below the surface, sustaining injuries that paralyzed him from the chest down.

After months of medical care, he had to find a new college to attend—the one at which he enrolled said its campus was not accessible to wheelchairs. One of his first jobs was on the second floor of a building with no elevator; two friends carried him up and down the stairs.

"For those first couple of years, I was really dependent on family or friends," said Maahs. "Back then, people with disabilities were primarily kept at home."

Were that diving accident to happen now, the campus and workplace would be accessible—with ramps, curb cuts, elevators, designated parking spots. A blind or deaf person, or anyone with a host of other disabilities, also would find accommodations enhancing their independence and engagement—all of this the legacy of the sweeping Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law 25 years ago, on July 26, 1990.

"Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down," declared President George H. W. Bush as he prepared to sign the legislation. Some 2,000 people with disabilities—elated after years of activism—gathered outside the White House for the ceremony.

The act is monumental in scope, intended to protect people with disabilities from discrimination and enable them to participate fully in the workforce and their communities. Its protections, which now cover an estimated 55 million Americans, extend to five key areas: employment, state and local government facilities and services, public accommodations, telecommunications, and transportation.

Even before the ADA was signed, Fred Maahs was well on his way to a successful career as a businessman and disability-rights activist. He is now an executive of Comcast Corp. and recently ended a term as chairman of the American Association of People with Disabilities.

AP

Fred Maahs, poses for a photograph in Philadelphia on Monday, July 13, 2015. The Comcast executive has become a prominent disability-rights activist since being paralyzed from the chest down in a diving accident 35 years ago.

Clinton says she's confident about proper handling of emails

WINTERSET, Iowa (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton said she never knowingly sent or received classified information using her private email server and did not know what messages were being cited by intelligence investigators as examples of emails containing classified information.

Clinton spoke briefly Saturday about the email matter after a Democratic gathering at the Madison County Historical Complex in which she stressed her commitment to a variety of issues, including her support for pre-kindergarten education and abortion access. Reporters raised the topic of the email during a brief news conference.

"I am confident that I never sent or received any information that was classified at the time it was sent and received. What I think you're seeing here is a very typical kind of discussion, to some extent disagreement among various parts of the government, over what should or should not be publicly released," she said.

The front-runner for her party's nomination said she wanted the information in question to be made public as soon as possible and suggested there was confusion over the issue.

"I think there's so much confusion around this that I understand why reporters and the public are asking questions, but the facts are pretty clear. I did not send nor receive anything that was classified at the time," she said.

Intelligence investigators told the Justice Department in a letter this week that secret government information may have been compromised in the unsecured system she used at her New York home during her tenure as secretary of state.

Asked if the Justice Department should investigate, Clinton said: "They can fight over it or argue over it. That's up to them. I can tell you what the facts are."

In addition to alerting the Justice Department to the potential compromise of classified information, the inspector general of the U.S. intelligence community sent a memo to members of Congress indicating that "potentially hundreds of classified emails" were among the 30,000 that Clinton had provided to the State Department.

The office said it also raised that concern with FBI counterintelligence officials and was recommending changes in how the emails are being reviewed and processed for public release. The State Department is reviewing 55,000 pages of emails with the goal of releasing all of them by Jan. 29.

Asia

Activist known for brash tactics among dozens held in China

BEIJING (AP)—Bearded, bald and burly ex-soldier Wu Gan calls himself The Ultra Vulgar Butcher. He poses for online portraits brandishing knives in both hands that he says he'll use to "slaughter the pigs" among local officials who've done wrong.

Since 2009, he championed a confrontational approach to compel police, local officials or the courts to address alleged unfairness in China. He traveled to remote communities to shame local authorities into doing the right thing.

His stunts included putting the likeness of a local official's face on a naked mannequin and threatening to hold a funeral service for a top judge. When authorities held a fellow activist at a hotel, Wu had an open invitation for like-minded people to visit the detainee, prompting his release by jittery officials wary of a crowd.

AP
In this image taken from a July 10, 2012, video provided to APTN, activist Wu Gan is seen with the subtitle "I am Wu Gan.

"I don't want to see policies being dictated by hooligans who will do harm to the nation. And so we go out there to help people, with the simple hope that our action will make this country a better place to live," he said in a 2012 video he made for supporters in the event that he should ever disappear or be arrested.

That day has come. Wu was formally arrested this month, as part of a recent crackdown on a loosely allied group of more than 200 "rights-defender lawyers" and the activists associated with them. He is among dozens who remain detained and may eventually stand trial.

They are the latest group targeted by the government under President Xi Jinping as it dismantles—one by one—any group with the potential to gain enough influence to threaten the Communist Party's monopoly on power. The party also has launched campaigns since 2013 to hush influential online bloggers, and to lock up members of the New Citizens movement that had openly called for greater government accountability.

Authorities have accused the lawyers of sabotaging the country's legal system, including by arranging illegal demonstrations outside the court venues of cases they were involved with. The lawyers and activists argue that public action is sometimes necessary to get any justice at all in the largely party-controlled courts.

Wu was perhaps the highest-profile of the non-lawyer activists in this latest group, known for his knack at transforming online sentiment into on-the-ground activism. He was nominally an employee of Beijing law firm, but it was unclear whether he was paid.

Activists like Wu and the lawyers focused on individual cases instead of challenging Communist Party policy at the national level, making them a greater headache for local officials than for Beijing. But their ability to organize and bring people out on the ground apparently made authorities nervous.

"If his acts did not inspire fear in them, why are they arresting him?" said fellow activist Zhu Chengzhi.

Zhu credits Wu for his release in early 2013, when he was under house arrest in a hotel in the southern city of Shaoyang because of online activism. Wu invited fellow activists to travel there to celebrate Chinese New Year with Zhu in the hotel. That made Shaoyang officials nervous enough to let Zhu go.

"He put enough pressure on the local government that I was released on parole before the Chinese New Year," Zhu said in an interview. Otherwise, he said, "I would still be having jail meals."

Unlike China's well-educated liberal intellectuals, Wu hails from a humble, rural background in the southeastern province of Fujian. He had no more than nine years of schooling, joined the army and worked as an airport security officer after discharge.

PH investigates alleged abductions in powerful sect

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Allegations of abductions and misuse of funds in a politically influential but secretive religious sect in the Philippines prompted the Justice Department Friday to open an investigation that could unmask the strong grip the church has had on its members.

The government cannot intervene in the squabble within the Iglesia ni Cristo, or Church of Christ, but abductions are crimes the National Bureau of Investigation will investigate, said Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

The feud within the close-knit sect became public this week when the mother and a brother of the group's head, Eduardo Manalo, were expelled after they sought help from other members in a YouTube message, saying they were in danger and several ministers had gone missing.

R&B singer Chris Brown was prevented from leaving the Philippines this week while he was being investigated on a fraud complaint filed by the church for a canceled concert last New Year's Eve at the Philippine Arena—one of the megaprojects built by Iglesia.

Isaias Samson, a minister and former editor-in-chief of the Iglesia newspaper, told reporters that he, his wife and son were held under "house arrest" by armed guards allegedly on orders of the church for a week before they escaped early Thursday.

"It is very difficult to talk about things that we know will damage the Iglesia because of the actions of some people," he said, adding that about 10 ministers have been abducted.

Herminio Coloma, a spokesman for President Benigno Aquino III, said officers from the national police Anti-Kidnapping Group have been deployed to "assess the situation to ensure the safety of all concerned and that peace and order is maintained."

Political candidates in the Philippines seek the sect's support because its members vote as a bloc. There are about 2.3 million members of the 101-year-old sect, but the number of Iglesia voters is unknown. It has followers in dozens of other countries.

The church believes that Jesus is the son of God, but it does not believe in the Holy Trinity as do the Roman Catholics—the predominant religion in the Southeast Asian nation. The Iglesia founder, Felix Manalo, broke away from the Catholic Church and is regarded by his followers as a prophet.

He died in 1963, and was succeeded by his son, Erano Manalo, until his death in 2009, when another Manalo son took over as "executive minister."

Bienvenido Santiago, Iglesia's General Evangelist, said Thursday that Cristina Manalo, the mother, and Felix Nathaniel "Angel" Manalo, a brother of the Iglesia leader, had been expelled for "creating divisions." Another brother and one of three sisters also were expelled.

Santiago denied allegations of abductions and said that the church is "not a family corporation."

"This is a religion that follows God's teachings written in the Bible," Santiago said. He said the mother and the brother were seeking positions in the church hierarchy.

De Lima said she ordered an investigation "to verify what is really happening, and depending on the results of the initial probe we will determine what should be the next step."

Speaking to reporters late Thursday at the gate of a compound where his family lives, Manalo's brother said there had been "many anomalies" in the church under its advisory Council.

"We have been threatened by the Council ... because they say we are opposing the leader," he said. "We love our brother, but the problem is those around him."

He said the church's funds "are being used up in all sorts of projects which we don't even need, one of which is the Philippine Arena."

He was referring the 55,000-seat arena, which is purported to be the world's biggest indoor stadium where the 100th anniversary of the sect was celebrated last year.

Iglesia spokesman Edwil Zabala belied the claim that church funds have been depleted, saying that 873 houses of worship have been built in the Philippines and abroad since 2011, when work on the Philippine Arena began.

Man restrained after trying to set fire on China flight

BEIJING (AP)—A man attempted to set a fire on board a Chinese flight early Sunday, but was restrained by passengers and crew members and taken into custody, the aviation authority said.

It was the latest in a rash of dangerous incidents aboard Chinese flights, including passengers opening emergency exits and fights between flyers and crew members.

The attempted arson occurred at around 1:00 a.m. Sunday aboard a Shenzhen Airlines flight from the city of Taizhou to Guangzhou near Hong Kong, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said.

It said an investigation was underway but gave no other details.

Photos posted on newspaper websites showed a partially charred passenger seat and a blackened emergency exit door.

Official broadcaster CCTV and other state media reported that the pilot issued a mayday call and the plane was guided into Guangzhou airport. Slides were deployed and 95 passengers and nine crew members were evacuated. Two people were injured.

The incident appears to point to a serious breakdown in security at Taizhou airport. China bans the carrying of cigarette lighters and flammable substances, including spirits, aboard all flights.

A statement from Shenzhen Airlines confirmed the incident but offered no additional details.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Small plane crashes in Tokyo; 3 dead, 3 survive

TOKYO (AP)—A small plane crashed into a quiet neighborhood in Tokyo on Sunday, killing the pilot, a passenger and a woman on the ground, while three people were pulled alive from the wreckage, firefighters and TV reported. The single-engine propeller plowed into and set ablaze a row of houses just minutes after takeoff from an airport used by small aircraft about 500 meters (yards) away in Tokyo's western suburb of Chofu. Television footage showed a mangled plane, broken up with its tail upside down, resting on a crushed car on a residential lot as dozens of firefighters were battling the blaze and treating the casualties. The roofs of the two houses next to the site were also damaged.

Afghan officials say Taliban take remote police base in deal

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban took control of a large police base in remote northeast Afghanistan after some 100 police and border officers joined the insurgents following three days of fighting, security officials said Sunday, the largest mass surrender since U.S. and NATO forces ended their combat mission.The loss of the Tirgaran base in once-peaceful Badakhshan province shows the challenge facing Afghan forces, in charge of the country's security since the start of this year. Remote bases and checkpoints increasingly find themselves targeted by the Taliban and other fighters as casualty rates for Afghan police and soldiers soar.The police base, in the province's Wardoj district, had been cut off as heavy rains destroyed roads into the area, said Gen. Baba Jan, Badakhshan province's police chief. It wasn't clear why soldiers hadn't been flown into the area to support the base, though the province's steep valleys often make aircraft landings difficult.

Police say rain, floods kill another 24 in northern Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Heavy monsoon rains lashed an already-deluged northern Pakistan before dawn Saturday, as rescuers found the bodies of another 24 people killed by the flooding inundating parts of the country, police said. The latest fatalities in Chitral in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province brought the number of deaths blamed on the flooding this week to 42 nationwide. Local police official Abdul Qayyum said that rescuers in the past 24 hours found the bodies of 24 people in the rubble of homes around Chitral. He said at least 30 people have been killed in Chitral since Sunday, when flash floods hit the region, affecting some 300,000 people and destroying bridges, roads and homes.

World

Obama to close historic Kenya visit with national address

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)— President Barack Obama is closing an historic visit to the land that considers him a local son with an address to the people of Kenya.

Obama also planned to speak with Kenyan youth and meet with civic leaders before he arrives late Sunday in Ethiopia, the second and final stop on his latest trip to the continent. The president's late father was born and is buried in Kenya, and its people have waited for years for the chance to welcome Obama back as president.

He made history by becoming the first sitting American president to visit Kenya when he arrived late Friday.

Obama's address to an audience of several thousand packed into an indoor arena is expected to focus more on his vision for Kenya's future and the broad themes of U.S.-Kenya relations than on his personal reflections about his first trip to his ancestral home since a visit in 2006 when he was a U.S. senator.

AP
President Barack Obama, right, offers a toast to Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, left, during a state dinner at State House, on Saturday, July 25, 2015, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Kenya has one of the fastest-growing economies on the continent and is the commercial hub of East Africa, but is also struggling to overcome challenges to its prosperity posed by widespread corruption and the threat of al-Shabab militants based in neighboring Somalia.

Obama will also highlight efforts to support African youth by dropping by a regional center for his Young African Leaders Initiative, a program to help cultivate the next generation of African leaders. Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said Saturday at a news conference with Obama that Obama will remembered in Africa for focusing on the continent's young people.

In Ethiopia, another Horn of Africa nation that will be getting its first visit by a sitting U.S. president, Obama planned meetings with the president and prime minister in the capital of Addis Ababa. Separately, Obama will also convene a meeting with the leaders of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to discuss the situation in South Sudan, which has been gripped by turmoil since a civil war broke out in December 2013.

Obama will also speak to the continent from the headquarters of the African Union, which plays a role in peace and security on the continent.

It will be the first time an American president addresses the AU.

Saudi-led airstrikes kill 120; deadliest in Yemen conflict

SANAA, Yemen (AP)— Saudi-led coalition airstrikes hit a residential area in a quiet Red Sea town in Yemen, killing at least 120 people in the deadliest strike against civilians since the March offensive began, security and medical officials said.

Hours later, the coalition unexpectedly announced that it would start a five-day humanitarian pause on Sunday, just before midnight.

SOURCES: maps4news/HERE AP

The airstrikes late Friday hit workers' housing for a power plant in Mokha, flattening some of the buildings to the ground, the officials said. A fire erupted in the area, charring many of the corpses, including children, women and elderly people.

Wahib Mohammed, an eyewitness and area resident, said some of the bodies were torn apart by the force of the blast and buried in a mass grave on Saturday. Some of the strikes also hit nearby livestock pens, he said. Human and animal blood pooled on the ground of the surrounding area.

The deadly strike highlights growing concerns that the Saudi-led coalition's airstrikes are increasingly killing civilians as they continue to target Shiite rebels known as Houthis.

"It just shows what is the trend now of the airstrikes from the coalition," said Hassan Boucenine of the Geneva-based Doctors Without Borders. "Now, it's a house, it's a market, it's anything."

He added that many of the workers had families visiting for the Eid al-Fitr holiday at the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Mokha, populated largely by fisherman, had a reputation as one of the safest places in the country embroiled in war, said Boucenine.

Saudi officials could not be reached for comment, and the government's official media did not issue a statement about the deadly strike. Over the course of the war, rights groups like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have expressed concern that the Saudi-led coalition is violating laws of war and not doing enough to prevent or minimize civilian casualties.

Car bomb kills 2 Turkish soldiers in mainly Kurdish province

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)— A car bomb struck a military vehicle in southeast Turkey, killing two soldiers and wounding four others in an attack blamed on Kurdish rebels, authorities said Sunday, a day after Turkey launched airstrikes against Kurdish insurgents in northern Iraq.

The Kurdish rebel group, the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, has said the airstrikes likely spelled the end of a cease-fire announced in 2013. Turkey has simultaneously bombed Islamic State positions near the Turkish border in Syria and carried out widespread police operations against suspected Kurdish and IS militants and other outlawed groups inside Turkey. Hundreds of people have been detained.

The car bomb exploded late Saturday on a road in the town of Lice as a vehicle carrying military police officers was traveling to intervene against

AP
Mourners gather around the body of Gulay Ozarlan, a DHKP-C militant, that was killed in a gunfight with police during a major police sweep that was launched against the outlawed group as well as suspected members of the outlawed Kurdish rebel group, the PKK and also Islamic State group militants, during her funeral In Istanbul, Saturday, July 25, 2015.

Kurds who had blocked a main intersection, said the governor's office in Diyarbakir, a mainly Kurdish province. It said the military had launched an operation to capture the attackers.

Assailants also attacked a police station in Diyarbakir, sparking a gunbattle, the state-run Anadolu agency reported. No one was injured in that attack.

On Saturday, Turkish fighter jets struck Kurdish rebel shelters and storage facilities across the border in northern Iraq, its first such strikes since the peace process with the Kurds was launched in 2012.

Tensions have been flaring with the Kurds in recent days following an IS suicide bombing in a town near the border with Syria. Kurdish groups have blamed the government for not doing enough to prevent IS operations. On Wednesday, the PKK claimed responsibility for the killing of two policemen in the Kurdish majority city of Sanliurfa.

Late Saturday, the White House said Turkey has the right to defend itself against attacks by Kurdish rebels. Spokesman Alistair Baskey strongly condemned recent attacks by the PKK, which the U.S. has designated a terrorist group, and said the PKK should renounce terrorism and resume talks with Turkey's government.

But Baskey also said both sides should avoid violence and pursue de-escalation.

Escaped Mexican drug lord no saint, but lesser evil at home

BADIRAGUATO, Mexico (AP)—People living in the hometown of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman have heard stories of his benevolence: gifts of medicine for the poor, deliveries of drinking water to storm-stricken towns. But finding anyone who's actually received or even seen such a gift is another matter.

In Badiraguato, the small mountain town that is part of Guzman's rags-to-crime riches mythology, none of the two dozen people interviewed by The Associated Press could point out evidence of his legendary largesse.

"I don't see a single building producing jobs, a single piece of public works, a soccer field, a sewer, a school, water systems, a clinic or hospital, not a single one that you can say was built by drug traffickers or their money," Mayor Mario Valenzuela said.

If Guzman or his cartel had invested in their hometowns, he said, "they'd look different: They would have paved roads or drainage systems, but they don't."

Guzman's escape on July 11 from a prison near Mexico City has focused attention again on Badiraguato, the county seat of a township that includes the hamlet of La Tuna, where El Chapo's mother still lives.

The roads to La Tuna are still washed-out dirt tracks, and Badiraguato itself has none of the flashy accoutrements of money—luxury car dealerships, palatial mausoleums, acres of fancy, gated communities of new homes, or dozens of street money-changers offering cheap dollars—that are abundant in Culiacan, the state capital, 1 1/2 hours away. The town's big projects include a new balcony for the town hall that looks out over the sleepy square dominated by a 19th-century church, where residents seek shade from the punishing Sinaloa sun.

Tucked into the foothills where the coastal stretches of flat corn and tomato fields meet the imposing mountains of the Sierra Madre, Badiraguato remains mired in poverty, Valenzuela acknowledges that many of the township's residents make a living growing marijuana or opium poppies.

Health & Fitness

FDA OKs breakthrough cholesterol drug for high-risk patients

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved a first-of-a-kind drug that lowers artery-clogging cholesterol more than older drugs that have been prescribed for decades.

The drug from Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. offers an important new option for millions of patients at high risk of heart disease. But the drug's sky-high price tag—$14,600 per year—is certain to escalate debate about the cost of breakthrough drugs and who should take them.

Praluent is the first in a new class of biotech medications that use a novel approach to lower bad, or LDL, cholesterol. The drugs are considered the first major advance in treatment since the introduction of statin drugs more than 20 years ago, and analysts expect them to generate billions in sales.

But the prospect of introducing highly-expensive, injectable drugs for one of the most common medical conditions is drawing concerns from health insurers, doctors and employers. Especially since generic statin pills are now available for as little as a dime a day.

More than 73 million U.S. adults, or nearly one-third, have high LDL cholesterol, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those patients have twice the risk of heart disease, the leading cause of death worldwide.

The FDA approved Praluent for two groups of patients at highest risk of heart problems:

- patients with abnormally high LDL cholesterol caused by an inherited condition

- patients with high LDL cholesterol and a history of heart attack, stroke, chest pain and related conditions

AP

This image provided by Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals on Friday, July 24, 2015 shows packaging for the drug Praluent.

Sanofi estimates those groups account for 8 to 10 million patients in the U.S.

The drug's $40-a-day price is even higher than many analyst predictions, which centered on $10,000 per year. In an interview Friday, Sanofi executive Dr. Jay Edelberg said the $14,600-a-year price reflects the "value to the health care system and the value to individual patients." He noted that estimated costs for a patient who has suffered a heart attack or similar cardiovascular problem range from $50,000 to $119,000 over 1 year.

But experts say more data is needed to establish if Praluent's cholesterol-lowering ability actually translates into fewer heart problems and deaths. Sanofi and Regeneron are conducting an 18,000-patient study to answer that question, but it won't be complete until 2017. Until then, many experts say new drugs like Praluent should be limited to the highest risk patients.

"What we know so far is that they reduce cholesterol really well, but what we're not sure about is whether they actually reduce someone's risk," said Dr. Harlan Krumholz, a Yale University cardiologist. "I think the wisest thing is to be cautious about their use and reserve them for people who have no other choice."

An estimated 6.3 million U.S. patients cannot control their LDL levels with statins alone, according to medical surveys. And another 3.3 million are thought to be unable to tolerate statins due to side effects, but there are no formal criteria to identify these patients. As such, experts say more research is needed to define the group.

"I think we need to be clear what qualifies for statin intolerance," Dr. Neil Stone, a cardiologist at Northwestern University, said. "What moves you from an inexpensive, generic statin to a very expensive new drug that doesn't have near the track record of the statin?"

The FDA is scheduled to rule on a similar drug from Amgen by Aug. 27. Pfizer's entry into the field is expected to launch in 2018 or later.

All three drugs lower low-density lipoprotein, or LDL, cholesterol more powerfully and in a different way than statins. They block a substance called PCSK9, which interferes with the liver's ability to remove cholesterol from the blood. Adding the new drugs to older statins reduces LDL cholesterol by about 40 percent to 60 percent. Statins alone generally lower levels of the wax-like substance by about 25 to 35 percent.

Statistical analyses published earlier this year suggest patients taking PCSK9 drugs have half the risk of dying or suffering a heart problem as patients receiving statins or older drugs. But definitive studies are still ongoing.

For now, several factors could limit use of the drugs. They must be self-injected by patients, with Praluent dosed every two weeks. Also their price is expected to face push-back from insurers and other companies that manage drug expenses.

Pharmacy benefit manager, CVS Caremark, has warned that if 10 million U.S. patients ultimately take PCSK9 drugs it could result in well over $100 billion in new drug spending.

Lifestyle changes may guard aging brain vs memory loss

WASHINGTON (AP)—The latest Alzheimer's research has a clear theme: Change your lifestyle to protect your brain.

It will take several years for scientists to prove whether some experimental drugs could at least delay Alzheimer's disease, and an aging population is at risk now.

Whatever happens on the drug front, there are generally healthy everyday steps people can take—from better sleep to handling stress to hitting the books—that research suggests just might lower the risk of Alzheimer's.

Making these lifestyle changes "looks more promising than the drug studies so far," said Dr. Richard Lipton of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, whose lab researches what makes up healthy aging. The findings on stress prompted Lipton to take up yoga.

Here are five tips to help guard your brain against memory loss, based on research at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference:

AP

This photo provided by the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center shows Michael Gendy of King, N.C. Gendy continues to exercise after participating in a Wake Forest School of Medicine study that found aerobic activity may lower a risk factor for developing Alzheimer's.

GET BETTER SHUT-EYE

Studies of more than 6,000 people linked poor sleep quality—and especially sleep apnea—to early memory problems called mild cognitive impairment, which in turn can raise the risk of later Alzheimer's. Other research showed poor sleep can spur a brain-clogging protein named amyloid that's a hallmark of Alzheimer's.

Talk to your doctor if you're having sleep problems, advises Dr. Kristine Yaffe of the University of California, San Francisco: "Sleep disorders are so common, and we think many are quite treatable."

EXERCISE YOUR GRAY MATTER

Seniors often are advised to work crossword puzzles, take music lessons or learn a new language to keep the brain engaged. The protective effects of learning may start decades earlier in life.

In Sweden, researchers at the Karolinska Institute unearthed school report cards and work histories of more than 7,000 older adults. Good grades as young as age 10 predicted lower risk of dementia later in life. So did getting a job that required expertise with numbers or, for women, complex interactions with people—occupations such as researchers or teachers.

Why? Learning and complex thinking strengthen connections between nerve cells, building up "cognitive reserve" so that as Alzheimer's brews, the brain can withstand more damage before symptoms become apparent.

GET MOVING

What's good for the heart is good for the brain, too, and physical activity counters a list of damaging problems—high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol—that can increase the risk of memory impairment later in life.

Get started early: One study tracked the habits of 3,200 young adults for 25 years, and found those who were the least active had the worst cognition when they were middle-aged. Sedentary behaviors like TV watching played a role. Yaffe—who just had her desk raised so she can spend more time standing—worries about kids' screen time.

DON'T FORGET MENTAL HEALTH

Late-life depression is a risk factor for Alzheimer's. Harvard researchers found loneliness is, too, accelerating cognitive decline in a study that tracked more than 8,000 seniors for over a decade.

Stress is bad for the brain as well, Lipton said. It's not just experiencing stress—we all do—but how we cope with it. Brooding over stressful events, for example, prolongs the harmful effects on brain cells. One study found seniors with the poorest coping skills were much more likely to develop mild cognitive impairment over nearly four years than seniors who could shrug off the stress.

EAT HEALTHY

Diets high in fruits and vegetables and lower in fat and sugar are good for the arteries that keep blood flowing to the brain. Type 2 diabetes, the kind linked to excess weight, raises the risk of dementia later in life.

Weight aside, Lipton's lab recently found a healthy diet lowered seniors' risk of impaired "executive function" as they got older—how the brain pays attention, organizes and multitasks.

Proposed label would give context to sugar in foods

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wondering if you are eating too much added sugar? The nutrition label on your food may one day help you figure it out.

The Food and Drug Administration on Friday proposed that nutrition facts labels include the percentage of your recommended daily intake of added sugars in a food item—the "percent daily value."

Adding new line for added sugars, or those that don't occur naturally, is part of an overhaul of the nutrition facts label proposed last year by the Obama administration.

While the labels include percent daily values for other nutrients, the proposal didn't include one for added sugars. Since then, a government advisory committee recommended that people get no more than 10 percent of calories daily from added sugars.

The FDA proposal would be based on that number, meaning that added sugars should be no more than 200 calories, or about 50 grams, in a recommended daily diet of 2,000 calories.

So if a food label says something has 50 grams of added sugars, the percent daily value for added sugars would be listed as 100 percent.

"For the past decade, consumers have been advised to reduce their intake of added sugars, and the proposed percent daily value for added sugars on the Nutrition Facts label is intended to help consumers follow that advice," said Susan Mayne, director of the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

Currently, the nutrition facts label lists percent daily values for total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, total carbohydrates, dietary fiber, iron, calcium and vitamins A and C.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest, an advocacy group that has pushed for more information on nutrition facts panels, called the FDA's move "a major public health victory," pointing out that a 20 ounce sugary soda can have 130 percent of the sugar a person is supposed to consume in a day.

The sugar industry said there isn't enough science to justify the proposal.

"The Food and Drug Administration has an important role in our nation's food supply to ensure that consumers are not misled by positive or negative claims about the food and beverages they purchase and consume," The Sugar Association said in a statement.

Life & Style

YouTube stars find acceptance online, in person at VidCon

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Ingrid Nilsen has been brought to tears.

The 26-year-old YouTube star openly wept as she was showered with cheers and applause from an enthusiastic crowd upon arrival on stage at this weekend's VidCon, the sixth annual celebration of online video.

It was just last month that Nilsen, who mostly posts YouTube videos about beauty and style for her more than 3 million subscribers, released an entry titled "Something I Want You To Know (Coming Out)."

"I love you guys," a weepy Nilson told thousands of fans gathered inside the Anaheim Convention Center for a Friday session starring lesbian, gay and bisexual YouTube stars. "This feels amazing. This is why I have two pockets full of tissues. It feels absolutely incredible. I just feel like I am giving all of myself now."

Nilsen isn't alone. Over the past year, such successful YouTube celebrities as Joey Graceffa, Shane Dawson and Connor Franta have posted videos declaring that they are gay or bisexual—and their popularity on the site has continued to climb.

AP
People make their way to the 6th annual VidCon held at the Anaheim Convention Center on Thursday, July 23, 2015, in Anaheim, Calif.

For some YouTubers, sexual identity has always been part of their free-wheeling, diary-like content. Tyler Oakley, who currently boasts more than 7 million subscribers, can't remember the last time he came out to anyone.

"I've been identifying as gay for over a decade, long before I joined YouTube, so I don't even think about it anymore," said Oakley.

It's not quite as easy for others. Hannah Hart, who hosts the popular "My Drunk Kitchen" series on YouTube and has amassed more than 2 million subscribers, wasn't sure at first how being honest about her sexual orientation would affect her growing fanbase.

"I was really hesitant to be so out, open and comfortable because I was afraid of getting stuck in a box when I was still trying to figure out my career identity," said Hart. "I thought once everyone finds out I'm gay, they're going to just put me in a specific place."

Once she came out, Hart never looked back. Such interactive openness from this new generation of celebs stands in contrast to 18 years ago when Ellen DeGeneres appeared on a Time magazine cover with the headline "Yep, I'm Gay."

While many YouTubers grapple with when or how to inform their subscribers that they identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, others haven't given a second thought about it.

"A lot of my content revolves around LGBT issues because I am an LGBT person," said Miles Jai, who identifies as gender neutral and posts videos about fashion and beauty to more than 500,000 subscribers. "I think it should be part of general daily discussion. It's part of my life, and my videos revolve around what happens in my life, so I can't avoid that."

Nilsen, who has been sponsored by CoverGirl and appeared as a judge on a youth-centric spin-off of the reality TV competition "Project Runway," said she intends to strike a balance between personal and professional on her YouTube channel.

"It's a part of my life, so I think it will come up, but it's not something that I'm going to force into my videos," said Nilsen. "Being a lesbian is a part of who I am, but there are so many parts of who I am."

Chris Brown leaves PH after ordeal over legal issue

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Chris Brown finally left the Philippines and performed at a night club in Macau, but not without last-minute complications at the end of a three-day ordeal.

The 26-year-old R&B artist sang at a packed concert in Manila on Tuesday, then wasn't able to leave because a fraud complaint was filed against him and a promoter for a canceled concert last New Year's Eve.

In a series of social media postings during the delay, most of them since deleted, he said "I've done nothing wrong," expressed frustration over being stranded and pleaded to be allowed to leave.

Late Friday afternoon, Brown was able to obtain a departure clearance from the Immigration Bureau.

Before boarding his private jet, he invited Filipinos to join him in a party in Macau.

"Manila, it was fun. I love y'all, man. If you can come to Macau, party tonight! Turn up," he said in a video posted on Instagram.

But once the group boarded, a three-hour wait followed because of a flight plan discrepancy.

They took off at 9:04 p.m. for Hong Kong, the Philippines' Civil Aviation Authority spokesman Eric Apolonio said. He said that Brown's original approved flight plan had Hong Kong as its destination and wasn't revised for unclear reasons.

During the delay, Brown missed a concert in Hong Kong that has not yet been rescheduled.

In a later Instagram video, Brown called Macau "popping" in apparent celebration of his arrival.

He said he returned to Manila to make up for the canceled New Year's Eve concert. The initial performance was to be at the 55,000-seat Philippine Arena, operated by a corporation owned by the politically influential Iglesia ni Cristo religious group.

In its complaint, the Maligaya Development Corp. alleged Brown and promoter John Michael Pio Roda canceled after being paid in full for a $1 million contract. The organizers said they were told at the time that Brown lost his passport and couldn't make the concert.

Immigration Commissioner Siegfred Mison said late Friday that Pio Roda was held at a bureau detention center because a complaint against him alleges he was working in the country without a permit and absconded or ran away from his debt.

Because of that, Brown was required to obtain a departure clearance.

In a tweet since deleted, Brown said: "This is a very serious situation and someone needs to be held accountable for mixing my name up in all this."

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said state prosecutors will summon Brown for a preliminary investigation into the complaint, but his presence at that stage of the criminal proceedings can be waived. Charges will be filed in court if prosecutors find probable cause to charge Brown and the promoter.

AP
Grammy award-winning singer Chris Brown performs at a club in Macau, early Saturday, July 25, 2015.

Philippine church accusing Chris Brown faces own legal probe

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A politically influential and secretive Christian church involved in a legal dispute with American R&B singer Chris Brown has been caught in a rising tide of its own troubles, including allegations of abductions and misuse of funds.

The Philippine government on Friday opened an investigation into allegations that the advisory Council of Iglesia ni Cristo, or Church of Christ, was responsible for abducting ministers critical of church leaders and financial abuse. The announcement by the Justice Department caps months of swirling rumors about corruption and internal feuds in the church, which has been controlled by the founder's family for two generations.

Brown gave a concert in Manila this week but was delayed from leaving because of a fraud complaint filed by a corporation run by the church. It claims it had paid Brown and a promoter $1 million in advance for a New Year's Eve concert at the 55,000-seat Philippine Arena, which he canceled without paying the money back. Brown was allowed to leave Manila late Friday after obtaining clearance.

The church's troubles are apparently unrelated to its tiff with Brown, but could be far more damaging to its reputation by exposing the depth of internal squabbles in the 101-year-old movement. It is also likely to unmask the strong grip it has on its 2.3 million members.

The feud within the close-knit church became public this week when the mother and a brother of the group's head, Eduardo Manalo, were expelled after they sought help from other members in a YouTube message, saying they were in danger and that several ministers had gone missing.

AP
In this photo taken July 23, 2015, the central temple of the Iglesia Ni Cristo or Church of Christ is seen in suburban Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines.

The brother, Felix Nathaniel Manalo, spoke out on Thursday against what he said were various anomalies in the church's operations, saying funds "are being used up in all sorts of projects which we don't even need."

One of the projects, he said, was the Philippine Arena, claimed to be the world's biggest indoor stadium where Brown was to have performed last New Year's Eve and where the 100th anniversary of the movement was celebrated last year.

"We have been threatened by the Council ... because they say we are opposing the leader," he said. "We love our brother, but the problem is those around him."

Another mysterious expense by the church, which was not mentioned by Felix Nathaniel, was its purchase of the U.S. ghost town of Scenic, South Dakota, for less than $800,000, the same year that construction of the arena began. The church has not disclosed its plan for the abandoned town.

Isaias Samson, a minister and former editor-in-chief of the Iglesia newspaper, told reporters that he, his wife and son were held under "house arrest" by armed guards allegedly on orders of the church Council for a week before they escaped early Thursday.

"It is very difficult to talk about things that we know will damage the Iglesia because of the actions of some people," he said, adding that about 10 ministers have been abducted.

With the controversy building up, the Justice Department announced it has opened an investigation.

The government cannot intervene in Iglesia's squabbles but abductions are crimes that the National Bureau of Investigation will probe, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima told reporters.

Cara Delevingne takes 'joy ride' from fashion to film

LOS ANGELES (AP) —Cara Delevingne wants you to know she didn't strut directly from the fashion runway onto Hollywood movie sets.

The British model wasn't hand-picked by studio executives for her lead role in "Paper Towns," which opened this weekend. She won the part after an audition process that included 100 other actresses.

"Cara killed it in the chemistry read. We all knew as soon as she walked in," co-star Nat Wolff said in a recent interview.

"I killed all the other actresses that went up for the role," Delevingne joked, laughing alongside Wolff.

The 22-year-old may no longer need to be quite so aggressive in Hollywood. She appears in four more films expected to be released this year, including "Pan." She plays DC Comics villain-slash-heroine Enchantress in the dark "Suicide Squad," out next summer, then co-stars with Dane DeHaan in director Luc Besson's big-budget sci-fi film "Valerian."

"The whole thing has been a joy ride. This is my dream so I'm kind of following it now," she said. "I don't feel like I'm stopping modeling. It's just definitely slowing down and so I'm just happy to be doing this."

AP

This photo provided by Twentieth Century Fox shows Cara Delevingne, left, as Margo, and Nat Wolff as Quentin, in a scene from the film, "Paper Towns."

In "Paper Towns," adapted from John Green's popular young adult novel, Delevingne plays the enigmatic Margo, who wrangles Wolff's character into an all-night adventure, then disappears.

"Cara understands better than anyone I've ever know what it's like to be Margo, what it's like to have people project images onto you and not really know you," said Green, an executive producer on the film. "Margo is a character in the story who everybody's paying attention to, but nobody's ever listening to. And I think that's probably something Cara can also relate to."

Indeed, Delevingne says that while the promotional grind of releasing a movie isn't so different from modeling—plenty of posing for photographers—she's intrigued by the media megaphone provided by movie stardom.

"It's a platform for me to be honest and to talk about issues and stuff that I think is important," she said on the red carpet at a Los Angeles "Paper Towns" screening attended by modeling friends Kendall and Kylie Jenner.

Designer sale raises funds for ovarian cancer research

WATER MILL, N.Y. (AP)—Celebrities offered their star power and top designers offered their clothes to a sale benefiting ovarian cancer research.

Dubbed by organizers as the Rolls-Royce of garage sales, Saturday's event—in a field in Water Mill, New York—featured items by more than 100 designers.

Donna Karan, Ralph Lauren and Diane von Furstenberg, among others, donated clothes, shoes and accessories to benefit the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund.

Karan helped start the event 18 years ago with her friend Liz Tilberis, the editor of Harper's Bazaar, who died of ovarian cancer.

Last year, they took in $3.5 million.

Kelly Ripa, who co-hosted, and Brooke Shields were among the celebrities at the Super Saturday sale. The new Miss U.S.A., Olivia Jordan, says it's important for women to advocate for women's causes.

Limo company blames CBS newsman Bob Simon for death in crash

NEW YORK (AP)—The limousine company whose car CBS correspondent Bob Simon was killed in is blaming Simon for his own death because he wasn't wearing a seat belt.

Skyline Credit Ride says in papers filed in Manhattan state Supreme Court that Simon's "culpable conduct" caused his death.

The 73-year-old newsman was killed Feb. 11 when the limo he was riding in crashed on Manhattan's West Side Highway.

His widow, Francoise Anne-Marie Simon, sued Skyline Credit Ride and the limo's driver last month for wrongful death.

The Daily News reports that Skyline said in court papers filed this week that Simon "failed to use or misused available seat belts."

The newspaper said a lawyer for Simon's widow did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Oh, my! Dick Enberg feted in Cooperstown with writer Gage

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—The Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasters was presented on Saturday to Dick Enberg and Tom Gage received the J.G. Taylor Spink Award for writers in a ceremony at Doubleday Field.

Enberg, a national voice for multiple sports on both NBC and CBS, has spent nearly 20 years calling big league games.

"Oh, my!" he said to start his speech.

"'Oh, my!' has been an expression and a great friend of mine for over 50 years of my career, and never have those two words expressed more personal joy than at this very moment. How privileged I am to be in such noble baseball company. I guess it all worked out."

Gage was the beat writer for the Detroit News, covering the Tigers from 1979 to 2014.

"Wow. Just wow. I can't believe I'm standing here. What an honor," Gage said. "I am, and always will be overwhelmed by it. Look, I'm not a famous guy. I know that. But after 36 years as a traveling beat writer hoping to inform and entertain the entire spectrum of baseball readers, I received enough votes to be standing in front of you today, and for that I can't fully express how humbled I am."

The awards presentation also featured a tribute to the legacy and contributions of former Reds, Cardinals and Senators outfielder Curt Flood. His test of the reserve clause before the U.S. Supreme Court in the early 1970s laid the groundwork for the advent of free agency several years later.

Tony Clark, executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association, spoke on behalf of Flood.

"We are fortunate that our game and our foundation has been laid on the backs of giants," Clark said. "And if we understand and appreciate and respect that, and understand and appreciate the sacrifices that were made, we'll understand and appreciate the sacrifices that Curt Flood made. We will all be better for it."

Shelton, Lambert tweet playfully after announcing divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Just because Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert are getting divorced doesn't mean they can't have some fun on social media.

The country stars, who announced the end of their marriage earlier this week, shared friendly banter on Twitter Friday, even joking about pregnancy rumors.

After initially touting fellow singer Ashley Monroe, the former couple got playful with their posts. Lambert shared a photo of Shelton with a stroller and joked he was pregnant. He responded by saying he was "busted" and not just fat.

The couple released a statement Monday saying they are ending their four-year marriage. Shelton, 39, is a host of NBC's "The Voice" whose hits include "Lonely Tonight" and "Boys Round Here." Lambert, 31, is a Grammy winner with such hits as "The House that Built Me."

AP

In this Feb. 8, 2015 file photo, Blake Shelton, left, and Miranda Lambert arrive at the 57th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Wedding may be wrong time for found father to reappear

DEAR ABBY: I am 32 and getting married in a year. My biological father lives in Spain and has never been to the U.S. My mother met him when she was teaching English there. I was born in the states and never knew or spoke to my dad growing up. When I was 5, I was adopted by my mom's then-husband.

At 20, while studying in Spain, I located my father and his wife. We maintain a good relationship, but I haven't been back there, and he has never met my family.

Mom harbors a lot of resentment toward my father. She tells me he took no interest in me as a baby and never sent any money or letters. She gets emotional when he is brought up in conversation. He doesn't feel this way toward her. When I mentioned to Mom that I plan to invite him and his wife to the wedding, she got upset. She told me I have no business inviting him and that she doesn't want to see him.

I do not share my mother's resentment. I don't want my father to feel excluded. I worry about Mom's feelings and about my father's first U.S. trip being during the wedding when I will surely be distracted with lots of things. Please advise.

BRIDE TORN IN TWO IN NEBRASKA

DEAR BRIDE: Your father may have no hard feelings toward your mother because it appears he accepted no emotional or financial responsibility at the time you were conceived. If he knew she was pregnant and offered no help, then all of that fell on her shoulders.

It's appropriate you are worried about your mother's feelings, because you should be. If you want a relationship with your father, no one can prevent you. However, if he hasn't "earned" the right to be at your wedding and if you have any sensitivity at all to your mother's feelings, entertain him in the U.S. at a later date when he can have your full attention. (I hesitate to say "the attention he deserves" because I'm not sure he deserves any.)

DEAR ABBY: I'm 56 and still don't know what I want to do with my life. I have no real talents or passions. I have 1,000 interests and hobbies, none of which would ever develop into a career. I have worked whatever job I could get to pay the bills (more or less), but they have all been near minimum wage, so 10 years from retirement, I have no savings.

I got to the point I was so miserable at my last job that I quit without having another one waiting for me, so I'll probably end up taking whatever dead-end job I can get just to get a paycheck. How can I convince potential employers I can do something different when I don't believe it myself?

DIANE IN CANTON, ILL.

DEAR DIANE: Your problem is you have lost faith in yourself. If you have had "1,000 interests and hobbies," I'm betting you are proficient in at least half of them, which means you DO have a wealth of varied experiences to offer some lucky employer. Please keep that in mind the next time you go for an interview, because as long as you have the determination, it is never too late.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

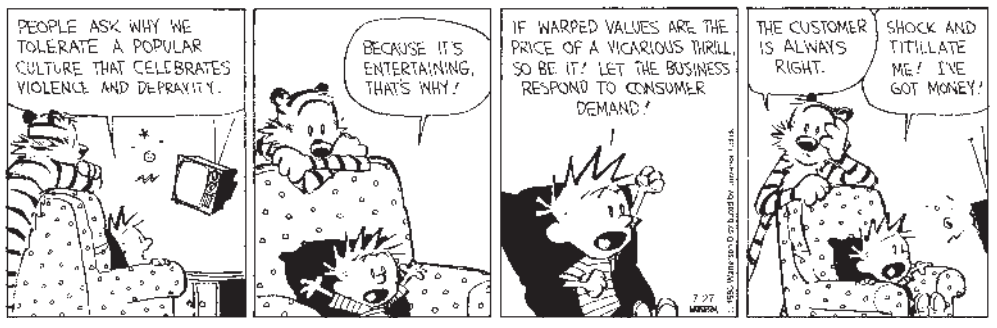
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


PEOPLE ASK WHY WE TOLERATE A POPULAR CULTURE THAT CELEBRATES VIOLENCE AND DEPRAVITY.
BECAUSE IT'S ENTERTAINING, THAT'S WHY!
IF WARPED VALUES ARE THE PRICE OF A VICARIOUS THRILL, SO BE IT! LET THE BUSINESS RESPOND TO CONSUMER DEMAND!
THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT.
SHOCK AND TITILLATE ME! I'VE GOT MONEY!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

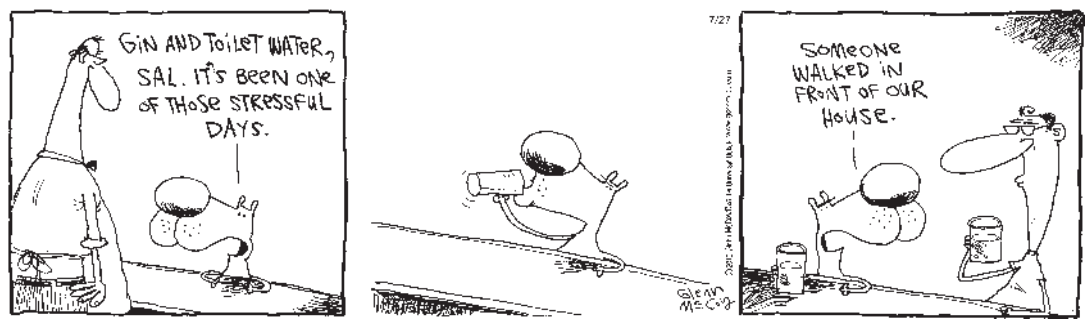
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHERE YA HEADED, TREVOR?
GOING FISHING. WANNA GO?
HMM. I'M NOT MUCH OF A FISHERMAN.
OH. NEITHER AM I.
I USE IT MORE AS AN EXCUSE TO DRINK BEER AND DO NOTHING.
I'VE FOUND MY CALLING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

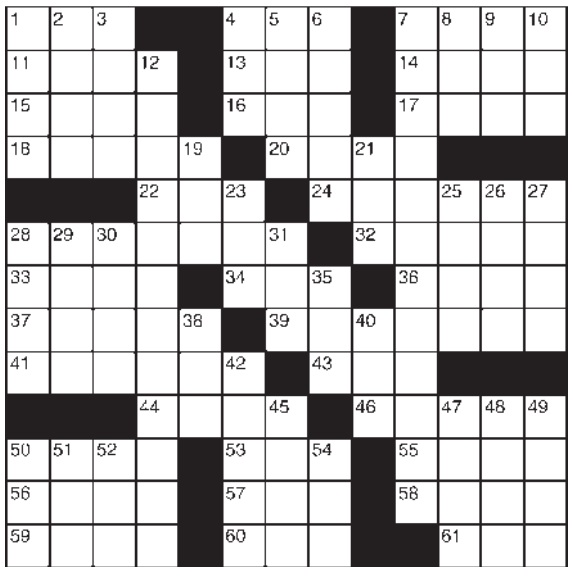
ACROSS
1 Venomous viper
4 Autumn mo.
7 Edibles
11 Abound
13 Boxing legend
14 Operatic solo
15 Sandwich cookie
16 The R in AARP
17 Pinochle tactic
18 Bamboo eater
20 Honshu volcano
22 Right angle
24 Contact lens cleaner, e.g.
28 Wrinkly dog
32 Actress Winona
33 Suburb, maybe
34 Office-holders
36 Winged
37 In the air
39 Amateur golfers
41 Local ordinances
43 Sprite
44 Double agent
46 Luxury boat
50 Ms. Moore
53 Arctic bird
55 Nastase of tennis lore
56 Verbal
57 Anger
58 Scepters
59 Alluring
60 Yule quaff
61 Obtain

DOWN
1 On
2 Antitoxins
3 Hammerhead part
4 Rowing need
5 Staff leader?
6 "— Andronicus"
7 1966-71 sitcom
8 Raw mineral
9 Lubricate
10 Papa
12 Sitcom since 2009
19 Matterhorn, e.g.
21 Pickle container
23 Hawaiian garland
25 Not working
26 Approach
27 Blunders
28 Impale
29 Sacred
30 MPs' quarry
31 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
35 Seek damages
38 Pair
40 Take to the skies
42 Dispatched
45 Overseas coin
47 Stop up
48 Stash
49 Exam
50 Spanish 38-Down
51 Before
52 Upper limit, for short
54 Small barrel

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	B	A	S	E	■	B	A	D	■	A	L	P
W	O	V	E	N	■	O	W	N	■	V	A	R
I	O	O	T	S	■	B	R	A	V	A	D	O
■	■	C	H	U	B	B	Y	■	I	S	L	E
A	H	A	■	E	E	L	■	T	O	T	E	M
B	U	D	D	■	D	E	V	I	L	■	■	■
S	N	O	O	K	I	■	A	C	T	I	C	■
■	■	■	T	A	M	I	L	■	T	O	D	O
C	O	Z	E	N	■	G	I	G	■	H	A	W
A	P	E	R	■	I	N	D	I	A	N	■	■
P	A	S	S	A	D	O	■	A	G	A	T	F
O	R	T	■	D	O	R	■	N	A	D	I	R
S	T	Y	■	A	L	E	■	T	R	O	P	E

Yesterday's answer 7-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonathan Rhys Meyers, 38; Maya Rudolph, 43; Julian McMahon, 47; Peggy Fleming, 67.

Happy Birthday: Uncertainty will plague you. Taking a practical approach to whatever comes your way will help you make decisions and avoid missed opportunities. How you go about your business and the plans you make will determine how far you will go. Don't wait for others to do things for you. Embrace life in a surefooted and diligent manner. Your numbers are 4, 9, 15, 21, 26, 39, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take hold of your future and you will reach your goal. Voice your opinions and network all you can. A short journey will lead to valuable information. Don't be afraid to try something new. You can conquer any challenge you face. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stop and think about what you are doing. Slow down and pace yourself. Check out your options and make personal changes that will enhance your appearance and ability to advance. Take action and do the work required to get ahead. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't give in to emotional manipulation or try to use it to get your way. Stick to the truth and the methods you know work. A relationship will teeter on an emotional wire if you aren't willing to compromise. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Step outside your comfort zone and you will discover something interesting that motivates you. What you learn is best verified before you make your move. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Set your goals and don't stop until they are fulfilled. Use your intellect and your ability to adapt and compromise and you will come out on top. Don't let uncertainty hold you back or dampen your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take good care of your physical needs. Stay in shape and follow nutritional guidelines. You are only as strong as your weakest link, and doing your best to make improvements will set you on the road to victory. ✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Intelligence and taking action can work as long as you do things for the right reasons. Ulterior motives will lead to anger and must be diluted before things become exaggerated. A short trip will be informative. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Think twice before you forge ahead. Do your legwork and find out what's required to follow through with your plans. Making unique changes to your surroundings will help you see and do things more efficiently. Don't overreact to emotional situations. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can outmaneuver others. Mingle with people you want to work alongside. Gather information from a variety of sources and you will form partnerships that will help you make both financial and contractual gains. A positive, unexpected change is heading your way. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep moving in a positive direction. Don't be sidetracked by what others are doing or saying. Put your efforts into improving your home and yourself. A disciplined attitude will help curb any uncertainty you are feeling. Don't be afraid to try something new. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Focus on your relationships with others. Let go of the dead weight you've been carrying around. If you simplify your life, you will be able to accomplish so much more. A positive change to your status or reputation will occur. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Disillusionment is apparent. Don't make personal changes if you have any doubts in your mind regarding the results. Relationships will be iffy due to false information or gullibility. Don't let your emotions take over or lead you astray. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a coordinator and a team player. You are imaginative and diplomatic.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	5			6		8		
4		9	2		8		7	
	8			4		1		2
	7		4				5	
8		5				2		3
	6				1		9	
3		8		7			2	
	9		8		2	4		1
		4		5			8	7

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	8	6	4	7	2	5	9
5	7	2	3	1	9	8	4	6
4	6	9	2	5	8	7	1	3
6	5	4	7	8	3	1	9	2
1	2	3	9	6	4	5	8	7
9	8	7	1	2	5	6	3	4
7	4	1	5	3	6	9	2	8
8	9	5	4	7	2	3	6	1
2	3	6	8	9	1	4	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DRAG RACING **Solution: 9 letters**

Q	R	P	H	S	I	N	I	F	N	O	T	S	I	P
H	U	E	S	R	E	N	N	I	Ⓦ	O	T	U	A	E
E	A	A	C	A	R	S	S	Ⓔ	N	R	B	I	T	S
A	P	N	R	A	I	E	Ⓡ	O	A	I	R	R	T	P
T	N	B	D	T	R	Ⓒ	I	C	M	I	A	O	A	A
H	E	E	L	I	E	T	K	E	N	T	C	K	C	L
G	L	A	T	U	C	R	H	G	S	K	K	R	C	E
I	C	M	S	A	E	A	M	U	L	E	E	E	E	T
E	Y	S	R	W	M	E	P	I	N	L	T	B	L	S
W	C	T	O	B	T	E	G	G	L	D	S	B	E	U
T	R	P	E	H	G	H	I	I	P	E	E	U	R	A
H	O	R	A	A	T	N	N	E	E	R	G	R	A	H
G	T	N	T	S	E	E	R	T	O	R	P	S	T	X
I	O	S	P	O	R	T	S	M	A	N	T	R	E	E
L	M	O	T	O	R	S	P	O	R	T	R	O	H	S

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Accelerate, Amber, Auto, Beams, Blue, Brackets, Cars, Crew, Elapse, Engine, Exhaust, Finish, Green, Handicap, Heat, Hemi, Lights, Lightweight, Methanol, Motorcycle, Motorsport, Pairing, Pass, Piston, Power, Pro Tree, Quarter Mile, Racer, Rubber, Short, Sportsman Tree, Stage, Start, Stock, Thunder, Tires, Track, Traction, Winner

Last Saturday's Answer: Presidents

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Scrambled eggs

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Mr. Juan L. Ada is currently seeking for

(2) Housekeeping

Interested applicants, please call Maria Ada at **234-5036**

Warehouse for RENT

REM LOWERBASE

Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FRONT OFFICE MANAGERIAL SERVICES

We are seeking candidates with an Associate's Degree in General/Business Administration or related field and with two (2) years of hotel managerial experience in a minimum 300 hotel rooms for the position of FRONT OFFICE MANAGER in Saipan, CNMI. Job duties includes supervision of staff/supervisors and the implementation of proper and standard procedures for front desk and PBX, trains staff members, and coordinates with other departments especially housekeeping, reservations, accounting, guest relations, guest services and engineering.

Please send your resume, including job history and training experience to: Interpacific Resorts Saipan Corporation, PIC Saipan, PO Box 502370, Saipan, MP 96950. Saipan Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Food and Beverage Wait Staff (1)

Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 6 months serving experience required of 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurants and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than July 30, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Senior Manager (Dispatch/Customer Service): minimum 10 years' experience of airline operations, dispatch and customer service required. Must have knowledge of aircraft weight and balance, and handling of dangerous goods. Korean language proficiency required.

1 Manager (Operations): Minimum 10 years of experience of airline operations, reservation and ticketing control required. Must have knowledge of airfare construction, GDS and SAP for airlines. Korean language for proficiency required. Email resume to asiana@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Tour Coordinator: $6.05/hr. 3 years' experience required. Korean speaking and writing fluency required.

2 Tour Guide: $6.05/hr. 3 years' experience required. Korean speaking and writing fluency required. Email resume to jinam@hanmisaipan.com.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
$450/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:
- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com
Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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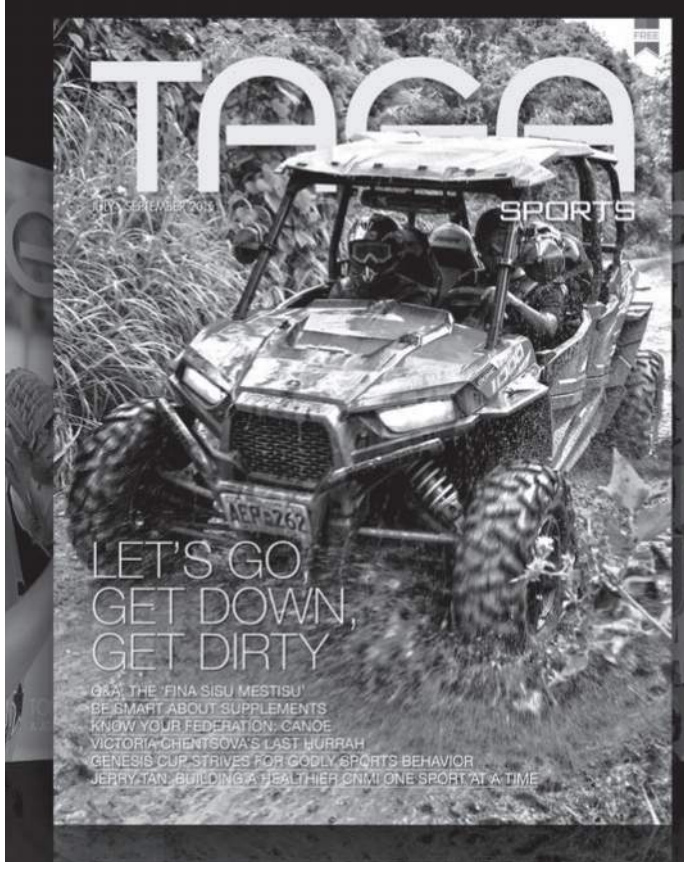
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

TAGA Sports is now on issuu.com/tagasports!


TAGA
SPORTS
LET'S GO, GET DOWN, GET DIRTY
GAA: THE 'FINA SISU MESTISU'
BE SMART ABOUT SUPPLEMENTS
KNOW YOUR FEDERATION: CANOE
VICTORIA CHENTSOVA'S LAST HURRAH
GENESIS CUP STRIVES FOR GODLY SPORTS BEHAVIOR
JERRY TAN: BUILDING A HEALTHIER CNMI ONE SPORT AT A TIME

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports*, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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GEGS SEGG

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Find today's solution in classified section

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ACCOUNT ANALYST
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience and one (1) year supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Word and Excel) and must be knowledgeable in using Opera and MAS 90; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) ACCOUNTANT
Minimum of three (3) years work experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting required. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Excel) and must be knowledgeable in using Opera. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ACCOUNTING MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience plus three (3) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality industry. A Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance from an accredited college or university is required. CPA certification is preferred; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, Powerpoint) skills are required. Knowledge in using Opera System, MAS 90 system (General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, Inventory Management modules), Kronos Payroll System and Web Cash management system. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) AIR CONDITIONING AUTO MECHANIC
Minimum of four (4) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT ENGINEERING MANAGER
Minimum of three (3) years of Engineering industry experience at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience. a Vocational degree or an Associate degree in Electrical Engineering or combination and/or related experience in the Engineering field is required. Technical knowledge and proficiency on electrical, plumbing and boiler operations is preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills ands the ability to support a 24hrs business are also essential. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (word and excel). Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of I.T. industry experience and Bachelors degree in IT related field required. Thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required, this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and Server Operating Systems, Microsoft application support, Opera System, SQL 2008 administration skills, Symantec Product experience with Ghost, ACT! And corporate anti-virus software, Access database, Crystal Report XI and report design skills with IIS, ASP and HTML Skills. Linux skills and Active Directory experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, network security, network configuration and construction, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support of IP Phone Systems, System backups and general network administration. A+, Network +, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business.

(1) ASSISTANT PASTRY COOK
Minimum of two (2) years of related experience with bread making, pastry making and cake decorating. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends and holidays.

(2) ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required, plus have a minimum of three (3) years of experience working in a supervisory role in Food & Beverage. Proficient with the use of Microsoft Office and the use of Micros point-of-sale systems. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) BAKER
Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) BANQUETS CAPTAIN
Minimum of 18 months related work experience, plus one (1) year supervisory experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(5) BARTENDER
Minimum one (1) year work experience; Must be at least 21 years old. Ability to speak Chinese, Korean, Russian or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of five (5) years of bartender experience, with at least one (1) year of supervisory experience in a similar role. Must be at least 21 years old. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of three (3) years of related experience working in a similar role at a hotel, plus one (1) year supervisor experience required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Any combination of education and related work experience will be considered. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUTCHER
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience as a butcher. Must be able to cook, marinate, roast and process all meat, fish and poultry products. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(4) CARPENTER
Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) COOK
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING
Minimum of ten (10) years of Engineering industry experience managing diesel operation and repairs for a hotel plus five (5) years management experience is required. A Bachelors degree in Engineering is required. Must possess technical knowledge and experience on 3516 and 3512 Caterpillar Generators, 85 KW aqua design desalination plants, chiller systems, pumps, filtration systems for swimming pools and reverse osmosis systems are required. Must be certified Reserve Osmosis (RO) Operator Level 2 in water treatment and Level 1 in water distribution system. Must have knowledge and experience in handling Diesel Plants and Reserve Osmosis (RO) Operations. Must have technical knowledge and experience on SMARDT Oil less and Screw type Chillers System. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hour business. Proficient and knowledgeable in the use of Microsoft Office (word and excel). Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR
Minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience working in a similar position at a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience is required. Vocational degree, an Associate degree, diploma in Engineering or any combination to its equivalent in the Engineering field is required. OSHA Certified and knowledge in handling hazardous materials is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR (SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES DEPT)
Minimum of five (5) years of proven experience in the electrical/electronic fields and the ability to demonstrate high proficiency in these areas is required. A thorough knowledge of electrical / electronic components and equipment including the use of special instruments for diagnostic purposes is required. Skill-level requirements vary from troubleshooting to board- or component-level repair. Willing to work any shift and overtime as required. Applicants must be versed in all aspects of the "Clubmate" position. Strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. The position requires the ability to work under pressure and time constraints. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF
Minimum of ten (10) years of progressive experience in high volume food production or catering in multi-unit restaurant Hotel or Resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have at least five (5) continuous years of management experience in a similar role. Must have the following: strong leadership/communication skills at all levels of the organization. Exceptional guest focus and proven positive employee relations skills a must. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(4) FOOD SERVER CAPTAIN
Minimum of 18 months related work experience, one (1) year supervisory experience required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(6) FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR
Must have at least three (3) years related work experience in Food & Beverage service, two (2) years of supervisory experience, plus one (1) year relevant work experience in coordinating events; Supervises employees engaged in serving foods in restaurants and maintaining cleanliness of food service areas and equipment; must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years previous experience as a Front Desk Supervisor is required. Must be resourceful, take ownership of problems and issues that arise and have excellent problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to work well under pressure and to lead a team. In addition to managing the daily operations at the desk, must have the ability to provide the Front Desk Clerks with necessary training and support. Fluency in Korean, Japanese or Russian is preferred. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) GARDENER
Minimum of three (3) years of work experience. Must have working knowledge of landscaping. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) GUEST SERVICE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years supervisory experience plus experience driving large passenger vehicles are required. Must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid CNMI driver's license, and pass a medical exam and substance abuse test. Must provide a traffic clearance with application. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) GUEST RELATIONS
Minimum of one (1) year hospitality experience. Must have the ability to solve guest concerns and cash handling. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, Japanese or Chinese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(3) HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR (ROOMS)
Minimum of two (2) years housekeeping supervisor experience required (minimum 300-room hotel). Motivated self starter with the ability to clean rooms as required. Responsible for checking up to 70 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excess hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) HVAC TECHNICIAN
Minimum of four (4) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) KOREAN COOK
Must have at least a minimum 2 years of related experience with Korean cuisine and ingredients. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) LANDSCAPING SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years of related work experience in a similar role working at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience in a similar role. A High School diploma or higher is required. Must be able to utilize or operate landscaping tools and equipment. Previous experience in executing landscaping-related project is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) MUSICIAN (3-pc band)
Minimum of two (2) years experience as a musician. Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian. Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis. At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Subject to audition.

(1) NIGHT AUDITOR
Minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience and academic background with major in Accounting Business knowledge on the basic functions of debits and credits. Knowledge on hotel-related systems particularly on front-office systems and point-of-sale systems of the hotel industry. Strong knowledge of Excel and must be knowledgeable in using Opera System and Micros System; Familiarity on how the hotel settlement system works (cash, room charge, credit card transaction or similar). Must be able to work from 11:00pm to 7:00am; May involve shift work, including working on weekends and holidays.

(2) PAINTER
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience as a painter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) PASTRY COOK
Minimum of two (2) years of relevant work experience working in pastry for a hotel. Associate's degree in Culinary Arts. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) PLUMBER
Minimum of five (5) years related work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) POOL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) POOL MAINTENANCE CAPTAIN
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience working at a hotel in a similar role is required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Previous HAZMAT training is preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(3) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Certified Water Treatment & Distribution operator preferred. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PURCHASING CLERK
Minimum of one (1) year of administrative and clerical related work experience, preferably in Purchasing or Procurement in a hotel setting. Preferred experience in Custom clearance process. Job requires a valid CNMI Driver's License. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Excel). Must be able to lift minimum of 50 pounds. Experience using MAS90 is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) PURCHASING MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of management experience required, preferably in hospitality industry. Plans, directs, or coordinates the activities of buyers, purchasing officers, and related workers involved in purchasing materials, products, and services. Ability to use supplier / vendor metrics (specifications) and must have clear understanding of commodity strategies. Experience with activities, including but not limited to supporting Engineering requirements, tracking upcoming orders (lead time) and processing custom & shipment requirements. Capability to execute and manage issues to support daily business needs. Degree in finance or business is required. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office and knowledge in using MAS 90 system (Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, Inventory Management modules) are required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) RESTAURANT MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required. Minimum of two (2) years previous F&B Leadership experience required. Minimum of two (2) years of Banquet leadership role required. Previous experience in a first-class, medium to large resort preferred. This position monitors the daily operations of each restaurant function to ensure a positive guest experience and will profitably manage the overall operations of the restaurants. Will manage all service aspects of food and beverage functions in accordance with the policies of the hotel. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be knowledgeable of banquet set-ups, policies and procedures. Must have experience in budgeting and managing banquet operations. Must be able to successfully coordinate staff and resources in high volume, time sensitive environment. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holiday.

(4) ROOM ATTENDANT
Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excess hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) SALES & MARKETING MANAGER (KOREAN MARKET)
Minimum of three (3) years of hotel industry experience, plus one (1) year of Korean Market sales management experience. Must be proficient in speaking, reading and writing the English and Korean languages, and be proficient with the use of Microsoft Office. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) SOUS CHEF
Minimum of three (3) years of relevant experience working in a similar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food production, food safety standards and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) STEWARD SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years stewarding experience plus two (2) years supervisory experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(5) TEPPANYAKI COOK
Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) UTILITY AIR CONDITIONER MECHANIC
Minimum of two (2) years work related experience in a hotel setting. Assist HVAC Supervisor in performing preventive and regular repairs and maintenance for the hotel's HVAC. A high school diploma, vocational degree or Associates degree is required. Any combination of education and related work experience will be considered. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, August 3rd, 2015.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Phillies' Hamels pitches 1st no-hitter vs Cubs in 50 years

CHICAGO (AP)—Phillies ace Cole Hamels enhanced his trade value even more, becoming the first pitcher to throw a no-hitter against the Chicago Cubs in 50 years while leading Philadelphia to a 5-0 win Saturday.

There was drama down to the final out, when rookie center fielder Odubel Herrera stumbled on the warning track, but managed to lean forward and catch Kris Bryant's flyball to end the game.

Hamels struck out 13 in the first no-hitter versus the Cubs since Sandy Koufax pitched a perfect game in 1965.

Hamels (6-7) threw his first career no-hitter in what could be his final start for the Phillies. He was the MVP of the 2008 World Series has been mentioned prominently in trade talks as the July 31 deadline approaches.

The 31-year-old lefty was part of the Phillies' last no-hitter, too. He teamed with three relievers on a combined no-hitter last Sept. 1 at Atlanta.

Rangers 7, Angels 6

In Anaheim, California, Delino DeShields capped a three-run rally in the eighth inning with an infield hit that drove in the go-ahead run, Rougned Odor homered, and Texas beat Los Angeles.

Joe Smith (4-3) came on to protect a 6-4 lead for Angels starter Hector Santiago, but didn't make it out of the eighth. Elvis Andrus raced home from third as Shin-Soo Choo grounded to first baseman Albert Pujols for a force at second, Robinson Chirinos singled home another run, and Josh Hamilton scored on DeShields' high chopper to third.

Spencer Patton (1-0) earned his second big league victory with a hitless seventh. Struggling Tanner Scheppers pitched a hitless eighth and Shawn Tolleson got his 17th save.

The Angels' loss was their third in a row after seven straight wins, and kept them in a virtual tie with Houston for the AL West lead.

Cardinals 1, Braves 0

In St. Louis, pinch-hitter Stephen Piscotty got his first career RBI with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning and Carlos Martinez outdueled former teammate Shelby Miller as St. Louis beat Atlanta.

The Cardinals won their fifth in a row despite getting just two hits. They lead the majors with a 63-34 record.

Martinez (11-4) made his first post-All-Star break start and allowed six hits in eight innings with six strikeouts and one walk, which was intentional. He worked the last four innings and took the loss in an 18-inning setback to the Mets on Sunday.

Randy Choate got the last two outs for his first save. Cardinals closer Trevor Rosenthal has gotten two games off after working three in a row.

Miller (5-7) allowed a run on two hits in 7-plus innings. The right-hander is 0-6 in his last 12 games, the longest winless slump by a Braves starter since Kenshin Kawakami went 14 games between victories in 2010.

Yankees 8, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Alex Rodriguez hit three home runs in a game for the fifth time in his career and keyed a ninth-inning rally against All-Star closer Glen Perkins, sending New York over Minnesota.

The Yankees trailed 5-0 early. Rodriguez hit Perkins' first pitch for a tying homer, and John Ryan Murphy later connected for a three-run shot.

Rodriguez hit 452-foot solo homer in the fourth and a 422-foot drive that made it 5-3 in the seventh. His 424-foot homer in the ninth cleared the center field wall.

A-Rod clapped as he trotted around first base after each homer while fans at sold-out Target Field booed. The last time Rodriguez hit three home runs in a game was Aug. 14, 2010, at Kansas City.

Rodriguez has 23 homers this season and 677 in his career. He is now 6 for 10 lifetime against Perkins with two home runs.

Mets 15, Dodgers 2

In New York, Michael Conforto went 4 for 4 for his first big league hits and Kelly Johnson homered into the upper deck in his Mets' debut, powering New York past Los Angeles.

Lucas Duda homered twice for the Mets in their highest-scoring game since April 2013, and their biggest run total ever against the Dodgers.

Slumping at the plate most of the season, the Mets erupted for 21 hits, their most since 2010.

Conforto, playing his second game in the majors, doubled twice and scored four runs. Kirk Nieuwenhuis got four hits and drove in four runs and Daniel Murphy homered.

Johnson and Juan Uribe both got hits a day after the Mets acquired them in a trade with Atlanta.

Matt Harvey (9-7) doubled, singled and pitched seven innings as the Mets ended a three-game losing streak.

Los Angeles starter Zach Lee (0-1) was tagged in his major league debut.

On Sunday, Zack Greinke starts for the Dodgers with a shutout streak of 43 2/3 innings.

Royals 2, Astros 1, 10 innings

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alcides Escobar singled home Paulo Orlando with two outs in the 10th inning to lift Kansas City to a victory over Houston.

Orlando singled off Will Harris (4-3) with one out and stole second before Escobar's game-winning looper to shallow right gave the Royals the win and ended the Astros' five-game winning streak.

Kelvin Herrera (2-2) pitched a scoreless 10th to pick up the victory.

Carlos Correa's sacrifice fly gave the Astros a 1-0 lead in the sixth, and the Royals tied it on Salvador's sacrifice fly in the seventh.

Giants 2, Athletics 1

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner hit a home run and pitched seven innings for his third consecutive win, and San Francisco beat Oakland.

Matt Duffy added a tiebreaking single in the sixth while helping the defending World Series champs to their 10th victory in 11 games.

Bumgarner—a Silver Slugger award winner in 2014—homered on a 3-2 pitch from A's starter Chris Bassitt (0-3) in the third. It was Bumgarner's third home run this season and ninth of his career.

Bumgarner (11-5) also struck out seven while working past the sixth inning—something he failed to do in each of his previous three starts.

Sergio Romo pitched the eighth and Santiago Casilla worked the ninth for his 25th save.

Ben Zobrist had three hits and scored the A's only run in the fourth inning.

Blue Jays 8, Mariners 6

In Seattle, Chris Colabello's two-run, bases-loaded single in the ninth inning gave the Blue Jays a victory over Seattle.

Josh Donaldson opened the ninth with a walk off Carson Smith (1-3). Jose Bautista then doubled into the right-field corner. It extended Bautista's streak of reaching base against the Mariners to 36 games, including 33 with a hit.

Edwin Encarnacion was intentionally walked, drawing the infield in with no outs. Colabello then bounced his go-ahead single up the middle.

Aaron Sanchez (6-4), just off the disabled list, worked the eighth to earn the victory.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' starting pitcher Cole Hamels (35) is hugged by Phillies' catcher Carlos Ruiz, left, and first baseman Ryan Howard after he pitched a no-hitter during a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs in Chicago, Saturday, July 25, 2015.

Roberto Osuna finished the ninth for his fifth save in six opportunities.

Nationals 9, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, rookie center fielder Michael Taylor had a home run and three RBIs and Gio Gonzalez won his fourth straight decision to lead Washington to a victory over Pittsburgh.

Taylor capped the scoring with a two-run home run, his seventh, in the eighth inning off rookie Arquimedes Caminero.

Gonzalez (8-4) lasted just five-plus inning and gave up three runs, one earned, and five hits with no walks and five strikeouts. Yet the left-hander stayed unbeaten in his last five starts and improved to 4-0 lifetime against the Pirates.

The Nationals' Yunel Escobar had three hits after sitting out the previous two games with a sore left wrist, while Ian Desmond homered for a third straight game for the NL East leaders.

A.J. Burnett (8-4) had another rocky outing.

Padres 3, Marlins 1

In San Diego, Ian Kennedy, being mentioned in various trade scenarios, pitched six strong innings and San Diego defeated Miami.

Kennedy (6-9) allowed a run and five hits. He matched a season high with seven strikeouts and walked one.

Kennedy has attracted interest from contending teams heading toward Friday's trading deadline.

David Phelps (4-7) gave up two runs over six innings.

Derek Dietrich opened the seventh with a home run, slicing the Marlins' deficit to 2-1. J.T. Realmuto followed with a triple and that chased Kennedy.

Reliever Brandon Maurer came in and stranded the tying run when Adeiny Hechavarria and Cole Gillespie grounded out to third and pinch-hitter Casey McGehee flied out.

Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 28th save in 29 chances.

Reds 5, Rockies 2

In Denver, Johnny Cueto shrugging off trade rumors and pitched eight scoreless innings, Todd Frazier connected for his 100th career home run, and the Cincinnati Reds beat the Colorado Rockies 5-2 Saturday night.

Billy Hamilton had three hits and scored twice for the Reds.

Cueto (7-6,) whose name has come up repeatedly in potential trade-deadline deals, put on a dominating display in hitter-friendly Coors Field, limiting the power-hitting Rockies' lineup to four singles before being lifted for a pinch-hitter in the ninth. He struck out five and walked one in a performance sure to heighten attention ahead of the July 31 trade deadline.

Chris Rusin (3-4) allowed five runs and 10 hits in five innings.

Diamondbacks 2, Brewers 0

In Phoenix, Rubby De La Rosa pitched eight effective innings and Brad Ziegler held on for his 14th straight save, lifting Arizona to a victory over Milwaukee.

De La Rosa (8-5) allowed four hits and struck out six, winning for the sixth time in 11 starts at Chase Field. Ziegler gave up two two-out singles and walked a batter in the ninth before striking out Gerardo Parra for his 16th save in 17 chances.

It was Arizona's first shutout since beating the San Francisco Giants 4-0 on June 14, and sixth of the season.

Paul Goldschmidt and Jake Lamb both had run-scoring hits in the first inning against Taylor Jungmann (5-2) for the Diamondbacks, who had four hits — two after the opening frame.

Orioles 5, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Chris Davis hit his fifth career grand slam and Miguel Gonzalez took a shutout into the eighth inning as Baltimore ended a four-game losing streak with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Gonzalez (9-6) allowed one run and five hits over 7 2-3 innings to win for the third time in his last four starts. The right-hander didn't issue a walk and struck out five.

Davis hit his 22nd homer of the season after J.J. Hardy, Jonathan Schoop and David Lough singled to load the bases against Erasmo Ramirez (8-4) in the third inning.

The Orioles added a run in the eighth when Lough tripled down the right field line and bounced up from his slide to jog home and score on second baseman Logan Forsythe's throwing error.

Tigers 5, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Nick Castellanos drove in three runs with a solo homer and double, Alfredo Simon pitched six solid innings and Detroit bounced back after consecutive extra-inning losses with a victory over Boston.

Former Red Sox left fielder Yoenis Cespedes hit a solo homer and threw out a runner at the plate.

It was just the third win in eight games for the Tigers, who lost the opener of the three-game series 2-1 in 11 innings on Friday. They closed a seven-game homestand with a 3-2 setback against Seattle in 12 on Thursday.

Mookie Betts drove in the run for Boston, which lost for the ninth time in 10 games.

Simon (9-6) gave up one run and five hits before limping off after throwing the second pitch in the seventh. He came in with an ERA of 6.08 in nine road starts.

White Sox 10, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Chris Sale allowed two runs in seven innings and Chicago used a five-run first to power past Cleveland.

Sale (9-5) cruised after being handed the big lead before taking the mound. The left-hander struck out seven to regain the American League lead with 170. Sale allowed seven hits and didn't walk a batter.

Jose Abreu drove in three runs, Melky Cabrera was 3 for 5 with two RBIs and Carlos Sanchez hit his first major league homer.

The White Sox, who came to Cleveland with six losses in seven games, have outscored the Indians 24-4 in winning the first three games of a series that ends Sunday.

Carlos Carrasco (8-6) allowed six runs in four innings. The right-hander hasn't won since coming within one out of pitching a no-hitter against Tampa Bay on July 1.

Surviving '1,000 deaths,' Froome all but locks up Tour

ALPE D'HUEZ, France (AP)—Feeling like he was "dying a thousand deaths," Chris Froome started to think that a second Tour de France victory might be melting away like the patches of snow on surrounding Alpine peaks.

Up ahead, already out of sight on the 21 hairpin bends lined by frenzied spectators, Froome's biggest rival at this Tour and those to come, Nairo Quintana, was flying, out of his saddle, getting away.

Grimly, Froome clung on. Following the wheels of two teammates who led him up cycling's most iconic climb to the Alpe d'Huez ski station, he passed—barely—the last big test before the three-week race rolls to its finish in Paris on Sunday.

This wasn't the dominant Froome whose powerful performances in the Pyrenees seemed, to some skeptics, reminiscent of dope cheats who did so much damage to the Tour. This was just a man, fighting pain, fighting the mountain, fighting to survive.

"There was a moment where I felt this could go either way," the British rider said.

"I was on my absolute limits. I was dying a thousand deaths."

Quintana was outstanding on the storied ascent, piling on speed in his last real opportunity to unseat the race leader. Over his radio, Froome's Team Sky updated him on the Colombian's progress as he scythed through fans waving flares and smoke bombs.

"We were getting time checks every few minutes," Froome said. "It was comforting to see it wasn't suddenly jumping by 30 seconds each time. It was slowly moving up 5-10 seconds at a time."

Thibaut Pinot won Saturday's Stage 20, the third French victory of this Tour. But it was Quintana's bold last assault and Froome's tenacious defense that provided the thrilling finale to a spectacular race.

The 1 minute, 12 seconds Froome preserved over Quintana will see him crowned the winner on the Champs-Elysees.

"An amazing, amazing feeling," he said.

Froome essentially won this Tour on the first big climbs in the Pyrenees in week two when, closely followed by teammate Richie Porte, he triumphed at the La Pierre-Saint-Martin ski station to give him a big time cushion. He picked that climb weeks earlier in training as the place to make his move.

That decisive blow carried Froome through those mountains and the hilly Massif Central region on the way to the Alps, and—with the exception of Quintana—resigned other contenders to fight for second and third.

Ultimately, Quintana left himself too much to do on the last of four days in the Alps. Just as in 2013, he'll finish runner-up again to Froome.

Quintana said time lost in the first week cost him dearly.

Still, he said: "Second at the Tour de France isn't half-bad."

Their engrossing, developing rivalry is box office for the sport after the ravages wrought by Lance Armstrong's era of systematic doping and lying.

At age 25, Quintana's future is ahead. He again will win the white jersey as the Tour's best young rider.

At 30, Froome can still add to his soon-to-be two Tour wins, and says he sees himself competing for at least another six or seven years.

But on this Tour's evidence, Quintana is getting closer to finding Froome's breaking point. In 2013, Froome won with a lead of 4 minutes, 20 seconds. This Tour wasn't so comfortable.

"Nairo pushed me all the way to the end, literally," Froome said. "We'll be back for the rematch."

On the Alpe d'Huez, Froome clung to the lifeline of his teammates Porte and Wouter Poels, who kept glancing behind to make sure their leader was still on their wheels.

"They saved it for me," Froome said.

Barring further loss of time on Sunday's largely ceremonial ride, which is very unlikely, Froome's winning margin will be the smallest since Carlos Sastre beat Cadel Evans by 58 seconds in 2008.

Quintana's Movistar teammate, Alejandro Valverde, will take third overall, 5:25 back.

Froome, his voice rough, said at his winner's press conference he's battled a cough and "been struggling" in the Alps.

Although unintended, those first signs of vulnerability shot holes in the idea that his dominant riding in the Pyrenees was somehow fishy. Such doubts reflected the climate of suspicion that prevails post-Armstrong, despite tighter drug testing.

Froome has defended himself against repeated questions about doping, and how he generates such power. He did so with calm and patience, insisting that cycling has moved on from the "Wild West" era of Tours won with doping.

But after a spectator threw urine at him on Stage 14, the mild-mannered Froome showed steel, blaming "very irresponsible" commentators for souring public opinion.

Some spectators spat at him - including, he said, on Saturday's final climb.

"There's been so much going on in the background," Froome said. "I've done nothing wrong. I've done nothing to deserve this."

AP

Britain's Chris Froome, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, climbs towards Alpe d'Huez during the twentieth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 110.5 kilometers (68.7 miles) with start in Modane and finish in Alpe d'Huez, France, Saturday, July 25, 2015.

Canada's David Hearn leads Canadian Open

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—David Hearn moved into position to become the first Canadian to win the Canadian Open in 61 years, taking a two-stroke lead over Bubba Watson and Jason Day on Saturday.

Hearn, from Brantford, birdied the par-3 15th and par-5 16th, but dropped a stroke on the par-4 17th and closed with a par for a 4-under 68 and a 15-under 201 total at Glen Abbey.

"This is something you dream of," Hearn said. "I feel like I'm ready to step up to the challenge."

Pat Fletcher, born in England, was the last Canadian winner in 1954 at Point Grey in Vancouver, British Columbia. Carl Keffer is the only Canadian-born champion, winning in 1909 and 1914. Albert Murray, a Canadian also born in England, won in 1908 and 1913.

Hearn and Watson will play in the final group Sunday. Hearn sees himself as the underdog.

"Hopefully, I can make some birdies and David can beat Goliath," Hearn said.

Watson called himself "half-Canadian" because wife Angie is from Pickering.

"Truthfully, let's be honest, we don't think about where somebody's from," Watson said. "All we think about is there's a guy in front of us. I've got a couple family members. They're going to pull for me, too."

Hearn is the first Canadian to have a 54-hole lead at the Canadian Open since Mike Weir in 2004 at Glen Abbey. Weir led by three shots, but lost in a playoff to Vijay Singh.

Hearn began the third round three strokes behind Chad Campbell after shooting a 64 on Friday.

Watson also had a 68, and Day shot 69.

Watson eagled the par-5 13th, made a bogey on the par-4 14th and rallied with birdies on 16 and the par-5 18th.

"I'm right where I want to be," Watson said. "I just wish the leader was a little closer to us."

Day, coming off a tie for fourth Monday in the British Open, dropped three strokes with a bogey on the par-4 10th and double bogey on the par-4 11th, then birdied six of the last seven holes.

"Obviously, it'd be great to see a Canadian win, but I'm going to do my best to try and spoil that," Day said. "We're all out here to try and win a golf tournament."

Michael Putnam and Brooks Koepka were tied for fourth at 12 under. They each shot 68.

Campbell followed his second-round 63 with a 75 to fall into a tie for sixth at 11 under.

Two-time champion Jim Furyk (68) also was 11 under along with Camilo Villegas (67), Emiliano Grillo (69) and Johnson Wagner (72).

Former Georgia Tech player Ollie Schniederjans was tied for 11th at 10 under after a 66 in his pro debut. He tied for 12th in the British Open.

AP

David Hearn of Canada hits off the second tee during the third round of play at the Canadian Open golf tournament in Oakville, Ontario, on Saturday, July 25, 2015.

Source: Union offered NFL settlement on Brady suspension

AP

In this Feb. 1, 2015, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) warms up before the NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Glendale, Ariz.

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The players' union proposed a settlement on Tom Brady's four-game suspension last week that was "met with silence" by the NFL, a person familiar with the proposal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday because the NFL Players Association's offer was confidential. There is no timetable on when Commissioner Roger Goodell will rule on the New England quarterback's appeal.

Several media reports indicated the union's proposal called for Brady paying a large fine, but with no suspension. The Patriots paid a record $1 million fine and were stripped of two draft picks, including a No. 1 selection next year. Team owner Robert Kraft accepted those punishments while stating he believed the Patriots had done nothing wrong.

Brady was suspended for his role in using underinflated footballs in the Patriots' victory over the Colts in the AFC title game. A league-sanctioned independent report by attorney Ted Wells found that Brady at the least was "generally aware" of the use of the footballs in what has become known as "Deflategate."

Brady adamantly denied any involvement. Should Goodell uphold the four-game suspension—or even reduce it—Brady is expected to go to court.

The union asked Goodell to recuse himself as the appeal hearing officer, but the commissioner refused, citing his responsibility to protect the integrity of the game. Last week, Goodell said at a fundraiser: "There is no timeline. We want to make sure we have a fair and open process."

"We are focused on it," Goodell added. "We are obviously being very thorough and want to make sure we consider all aspects of his appeal. We will make a decision as quickly as possible."

The Patriots report to training camp next Wednesday and begin practicing Thursday. Brady is not barred from participating in team activities until the preseason ends.

Should Goodell maintain any suspension, whether four games or less, and Brady takes the matter to court, it's possible the case could drag deep into the regular season. During that time, should Brady obtain an injunction, he likely would be able to play until a court decision is made.

Hall of Fame limits Seau's daughter's comments to video

CANTON, Ohio (AP)—Junior Seau's daughter will be commenting only on a video when her late father enters the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Aug. 8.

Citing previous policies on posthumous inductions, the Hall is limiting Sydney Seau's comments to a video presentation about the former linebacker who killed himself in 2012. Seau is one of seven men being inducted this year.

In a statement from Hall executive vice president Joe Horrigan, a 2010 policy was referenced Friday.

"The policy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame since 2010 regarding individuals enshrined posthumously provides for an expanded presenting video (longer than the videos of living inductees) followed by the traditional unveiling of the bronzed bust and no additional comments made from the podium," Horrigan said.

The 2011 induction used such a format when former Los Angeles Rams star Les Richter was inducted posthumously.

In a New York Times story Friday, Sydney Seau said: "It's frustrating because the induction is for my father and for the other players, but then to not be able to speak, it's painful. I just want to give the speech he would have given."

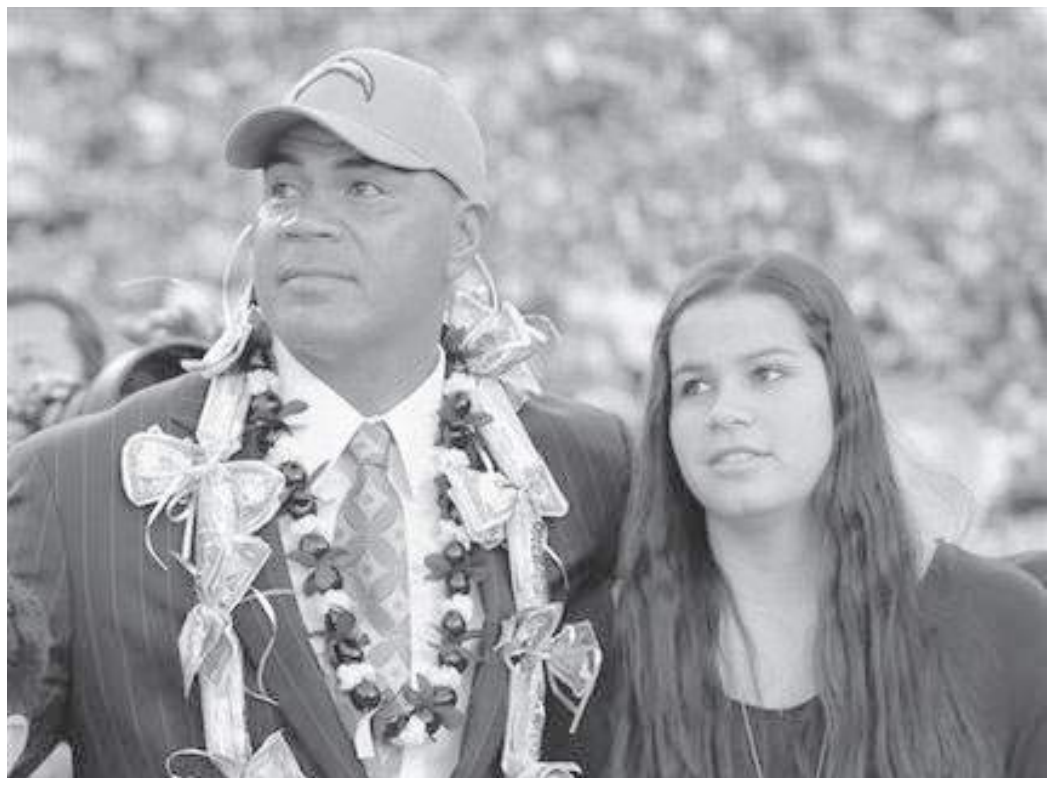
Seau, who played 20 seasons as one of the NFL's best linebackers, shot and killed himself. Doctors later diagnosed Seau with traumatic brain injury they believed attributable to playing football, particularly to hits to his head.

His family also has sued the NFL.

But Sydney Seau told the Times none of that was planned in her speech.

"It wasn't going to be about this mess," she said. "My speech was solely about him."

The video presentation will last about five minutes, longer than the usual videos by about two minutes, the Hall said. And Sydney Seau will make remarks in that video.



AP

In this Nov. 27, 2011, file photo, former San Diego Charger Junior Seau stands with his daughter, Sydney, at his induction into the San Diego Chargers Hall of Fame, during halftime of an NFL football game in San Diego.

DERBY

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previous record of 624.34 lbs by Captain Danny Agulto in 1997.

Their three-hour fight with the 900-lb marlin was worth it as they collected a total cash prize of $14,600.

The *Zeppelin* of Tan Holdings legal counsel Steve Pixley is the current leader in the wahoo category at 31 lbs, while the *Amazing Grace* and *SJ II* are in second and third with 26.8 lbs and 22.05 lbs, respectively.

Pixley's *Zeppelin*, on April 11 this year, placed third in the 11th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby with a 22.5-lb catch.

St. Patrick had the heaviest mahi caught on Saturday at 13.5 lbs, while *MV Gloria* and *Trimia* are in second and third with 9.1 lbs and 9.05 lbs each.

The *Islander* is currently on top of the skipjack category with 18.2 lbs followed by B*lu By U* with 18.05 lbs and *My Lady Gora* with 17.8 lbs.

The *Trimia* also caught two more billfish on Sunday that each weighed 102.5 lbs and 93 lbs, and a 21-lb wahoo. They also have an entry in the mahi but failed to catch a yellowfin.

A total of 58 boats joined this year's fishing tournament where anglers tried catching the heaviest billfish, yellowfin, wahoo, mahi, and skipjack.

DEBUT

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drelon finished with 16 and 14 markers each. R. J. Nonato had a quiet 10 points.

Mike Arciaga scattered 12 points to lead Joeten's scoring while Dixon Kwon and veteran Steve Rasa chipped in 10 apiece.

Earlier, Mariana Resort had Team McDonald's scoreless for almost seven minutes en route to their 40-point win.

Francisco Lifoifoi and Fred Litulumar alternated in piling up the points for Mariana Resort, which held on to a 19-0 advantage in the 3:33 mark of the first period. Richard Cruz ended the scoring drought for Team McDonald's with a 3-pointer, 3:14 in the same quarter.

Edmark Mendoza, however, joined in the scoring fray as Mariana Resort pressed on with their offensive attack and McDonald's missed horribly from the field.

Mendoza top-scored for Mariana Resort with 23, followed closely by Lifoifoi's 22. Litulumar ended up with 18 markers.

Cruz tallied 17 for Team McDonald's, while Michael Achas scattered 13 points.

Action continues today with Cape Air taking on Saipan Ice at 6:30pm, while Docomo battles Top Development in the 8pm second game. Both games will be played at the TSL Sports Complex.

First Game

Mariana Resort 89 – Mendoza 23, Lifoifoi 22, Litulumar 18, Bansil 7, Delos Reyes 6, Johannes 5, Capuli 4, Lacbayo 4.

McDonald's 49 – Cruz 17, Mi. Achas 13, Gapor 8, C. Achas 4, Ayuyu 4, Gaspar 3.

Scoring by quarters: 26-10, 43-19, 68-36, 89-49.

Second Game

Tan Holdings 88 – Duenas 23, Pagarao 16, Esdrelon 14, Nonato 10, Demapan 7, Matsutaro 6, Macoto 4.

Joeten 60 – Arciaga 12, Kwon 10, Rasa 10, Lauron 8, Lampkin 7, Benghit 5, Sambile 5, Tobias 3.

Scoring by quarters: 23-10, 38-27, 66-48, 80-60.

WINTER

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Lucido, Robert Sanciangco, and Erwin Gomez were Kapileo's teammates in the Tuesday League, while he joins Boyet Sequioco, Romand Rodriguez, Manny Mariano, Richard Santos, Ruben Santos, and Ronel Sunga in the Thursday League.

The Rolly Villanueva-captained Jokers IT&E Voyagers ruled the Tuesday League with the help of Mark Butac, Marc Brian Nelvis, Roman Rodriguez, and R.J. Mascarinas.

Ray Matsunaga, Patrick Cepeda, Randy Sablan, John Reyes, Jack Thornsaket, and Massau Tadashi of the Abyss Titans duplicated their feat in the Thursday League.

The Crazy 8—another Abyss-backed squad composed of Rey Pinangay, Rodel Dela Cruz, Victor Formales, Zaldy Quebral, and Warlee Ellama—finished third in the Tuesday League.

The Crazy 8 bounced back in the Budweiser Cup's Tuesday League, while the Jokers Homeboyz topped the Thursday edition of the season-ending tournament.

George Lizardo with Nolan Cultura, Rolly Villanueva, Jeff Garcia, Neil Ayson, Joshua Woodson, and Cesar Sangalang came in fourth in the regular season of the Thursday League.

Wild Bill's were the runners-up in the Thursday League with Pinangay as team captain and Formales, Kai Thamka, Juancho Mendoza, Nong Detdon, and Oliver Gragasin as members.

Cultura, Garcia, and Sangalang bagged the sportsmanship award for the Smoke Pub Ali'i Destroyers, while Jonny's Team SCS—composed of Gomez, Joey Paranada, Bryan Fabre, Caloy Lubi, Rick Reyes, Jerru Tiu, Toto Bigcas, James Villacrusis, and Bob Webb received the same honor in the Thursday League.

Cultura and Mariano were named the elimination round most valuable players, while Butac and Cepeda bagged the finals MVPs.

Villanueva was the top performer for the Tuesday League with 38, while Rey Hermogenes had 30 for the Thursday League. The award is given to a player that had the most assists in the Partner's 8-ball events.

Sangalang is the lone 8-ball on break winner in the Tuesday League, while Cepeda, Randy Sablan, Rico Montano, and Rolly Bermiso were tied in the Thursday edition.

Nelvis and Gomez were the Tuesday League's Run The Rack recipients with Sablan and Hermogenes in the Thursday League.

Road to Ironman Bike Race

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Individual male runner-up David Boyer slows down as he approaches the run transition area during last week's Islander Rent-A-Car Road To Ironman Triathlon and Bike Race at the Pau Pau Beach Park.

Bob Ferrer was the third fastest rider in the road bike category.

Vernice Ronda topped the women's beginner division of the mountain bike race.

Mark Isip catches his breath as he nears the finish line to place second in the mountain bike category.

Dencio Bautista speeds away to a first place finish in the 36-over division of the road bike race.

Ariel Garcia approaches the finish line of the road bike race.

Xander Khan was Team BRX's biker. Ben Tabin did the swim leg, while Rommel Buenaflor did the run portion.

Von Adrian B. Libayan came in third in the triathlon individual male.

Rodney Catalla topped the men's beginner division of the mountain bike race.

Rommel Tiosejo smiles after completing the bike portion of the triathlon.

Atsuko Sato was sixth overall in the individual female triathlon.

Phillies' Hamels pitches 1st no-hitter vs Cubs in 50 years

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Surviving '1,000 deaths,' Froome all but locks up Tour

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Record-breaking Day 1 in fishing derby

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Day 1 of the 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament had a record haul in terms of quantity as 25 marlins were weighed last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

The *Emmanuel* alone of captain Mike James and his crew caught four on Saturday, along with the tournament's unofficial heaviest catch of a 234.5-lb billfish.

They caught another one on Sunday where nine more were also weighed in with just less than two hours left in the 6pm deadline bringing the total to 35 marlins.

Unofficial results had the *Aquaholic* having the second heaviest catch at 146 lbs. followed by Dr. Hoa Van Nguyen's *Blu By U's* 132.5-lb billfish. *Tweety* came in fourth with 128-lb fish.

The final results will be announced in today's awards ceremony at 6pm at Pacific Islands Club.

James and his crew in the *Emmanuel* ruled the 2012 edition with a record-breaking catch of a 942-lb. Pacific Blue Marlin. Their fish broke the

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JOEL PINAROC
The *Aquaholics* are currently in second place in the unofficial results in the billfish category with a 146-lb catch on Saturday in the 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Winter/Spring season winners feted

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan Billiards Association gave out all the major awards for its Tuesday and Thursday leagues' Winter/Spring 2015 season yesterday at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

SBA also honored Simeon Kapileo with the Senior Player Award as the veteran cue artist continues to defy age and remains one of the best pool players in both 8-ball leagues.

Kapileo is a member of the Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers that finished second in the Tuesday League and was part of the Route 33 Alamo Car Rental squad that placed third in the Thursday League.

He is also one of the original players when the SBA started with its leagues 10 years ago.

Rowel Mariano, Jerry Soriano, Senen Pangilinan, Joey

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JON PEREZ
Saipan Billiards Association's Warlee Ellama presented the Senior Player Award to Simeon Kapileo during the Tuesday and Thursday leagues' Winter/Spring 2015 season awards banquet held yesterday at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

Debut wins for Tan Holdings, Mariana Resort

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings and Mariana Resort & Spa opened up with respective wins in contrasting fashion at the start of the 2015 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Tan Holdings survived Joeten Enterprises' repeated comeback bids then used a third-quarter scoring barrage in coasting to an 80-60 win, while Mariana Resort blitzed past McDonald's, 89-49.

Cape Air, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Docomo Pacific, Marianas Brokers Inc., Saipan Ice, and Top Development Inc. are the other competing teams in the second edition of the cage league.

Joeten, despite falling behind by double digits early in the game, managed to claw back several times and was only down by 6 points, 40-34, with 8:34 left in the third quarter.

Tan Holdings, however, always had an answer for every Joeten basket and used a 17-9 exchange to enjoy a 57-43 spread with 2:51 to go in the third.

Tan Holdings closed out with another 9-5 spurt to enter the fourth canto holding on to an 18-point lead, which they protected up to the final buzzer.

Matt Duenas, Lerio Pagarao, and Elmer Esdrelon joined hands for Tan Holdings in keeping Joeten at bay.

Duenas had a game high 23 points, while Pagarao and Es-

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JON PEREZ
Ferdie Tobias of Joeten Enterprises, right, tries to keep the ball away from Tan Holdings' Jared Matsutaro in last Saturday's opening of the 2015 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.